Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

2

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:12 Suspense

Chapter:13 Secret Maneuvers

Chapter:14 The Match

Chapter:15 Rampage

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Janken(Rock-Paper-Scissors)rules

Paper wins a stone.

Stone wins scissors.

Scissors win paper.

ざわ…ざわ…
Kaiji -san...

……

Furuhata ...
Ando ...

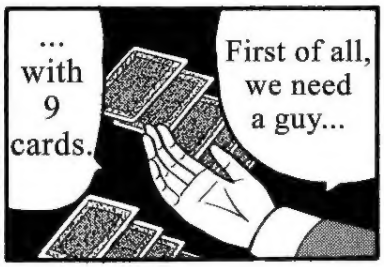
We've only got 4 scissor cards. It's impossible ...

What do you mean we can win ...?

We're not out of the game yet...!
Don't give up hope...

ざわ・・
ざわ・・
Chapter 12: Suspense

...and watch his next 2 matches.
Once you find him keep an eye on him...


First of all, we need a guy...
... with 9 cards.

We can't go into these matches with only 1 star.
We each have a job to do.
I'll use our money to buy us more.

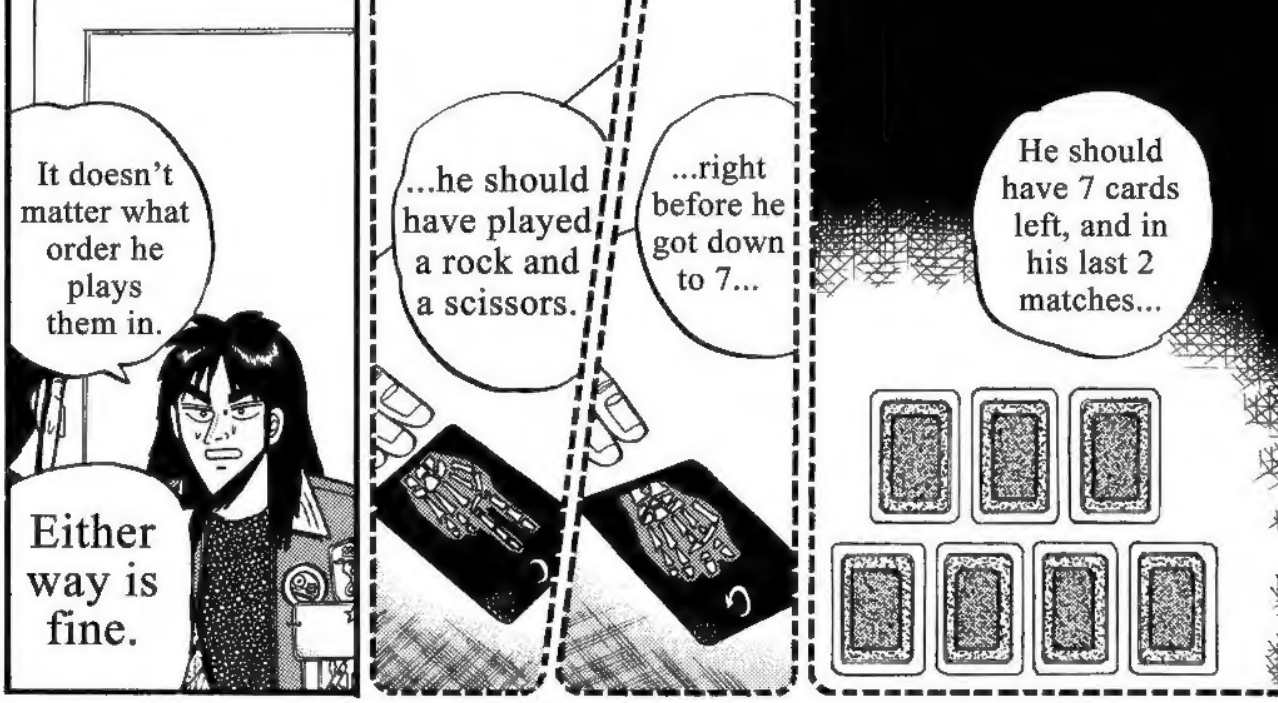
It's time we stop dragging our feet here...!
THWUMP

...then let me know.
If he plays a rock and a scissors ...
That means ...

What's important is what cards he plays.
It doesn't matter whether he wins or loses...

Alright ...
Here's what you should look for...

...I want you two to search for the right mark.
While I'm doing that...

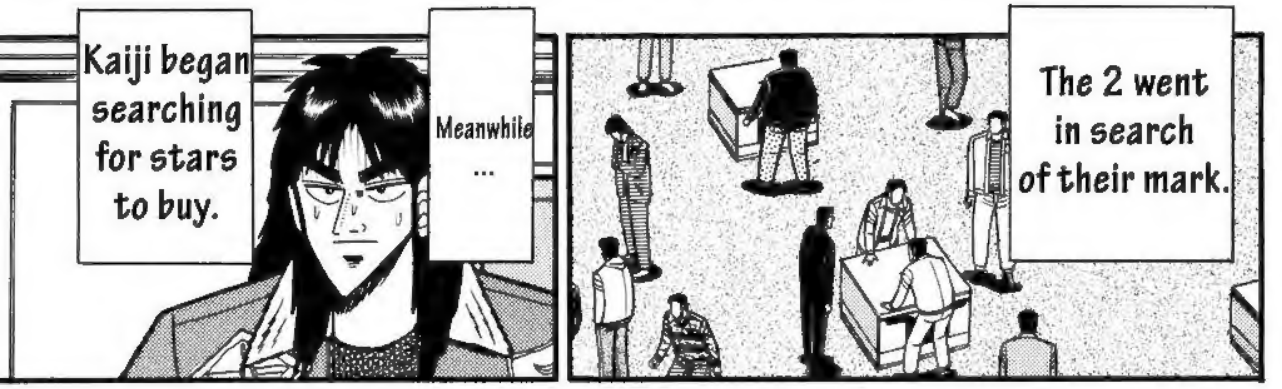

It doesn't matter what order he plays them in.
Either way is fine.
...he should have played a rock and a scissors.
...right before he got down to 7...
He should have 7 cards left, and in his last 2 matches...

But ...
Yeah ...
... Got it?

We need to find him first ...!
How many guys do you think there are still holding onto 9 cards ...?
It's already been over an hour since the game began...
If we spend all day talking we're gonna lose our chance.
Sorry, but...
What for...?
... isn't the time to explain.
Right now...

Ah ...
Time's wasting ...!
Hurry up...!

And so...
.....
ZMM
ZMM
.....
.....


Kaiji began searching for stars to buy.
Meanwhile ...
The 2 went in search of their mark.

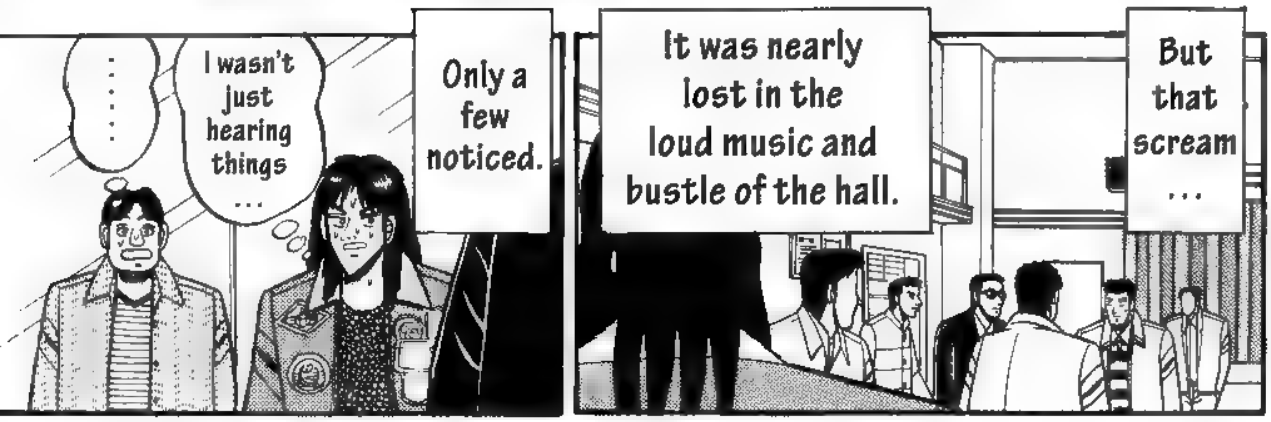
In order to use his strategy ...
Obviously, 1 star wouldn't be enough.
...at least 2 stars would be necessary.
Kaiji knew that well enough...
...but it gave them a good 70 or 80% chance...
Kaiji's plan wouldn't guarantee them a win...

But this was easier said than done...!
You're outta your mind ...!
Uh-uh, no way...!
Ah ...
... while others only toyed with him.
Under the circumstances, a fair deal seemed unlikely.
For 10 mil. yen, maybe I'd consider it...
Some of the players ignored him completely ...
You gotta be kidding.
...then even the guys with 5 or 6 stars weren't out of the woods yet.
If they had too many cards left ...
The next match was still waiting, like a trap...
10 mil. yen...
Hehehe.

...dealing with the guys with no cards and extra stars would have been possible.
If it had been an hour or 2 later...
The timing was no good.
.....
Kaiji's efforts to buy a star had run aground.
...nobody was listening.
But at this stage ...
At his wit's end...
WAHHH
Hmph ...
...as an inmate being led to execution.
...his footsteps were as heavy...
As they led him into the other room ...
At the same time, another player had lost his 3 stars.
...Kaiji put his head into his hands.

Aaiieee...
Ah...
CREAK...
We could be next...
.....
Aaiieee...
Aahhhh...
...they had just made an unthinkable mistake.
From the organizer's point of view...
SLAM
...from reaching the outside...
The sound-proofed, double doors were designed to keep any noise...
A scream had leaked out from the 2nd room.
...there were 2 rooms, in succession.
On the other side of that door...
2
1

It was an accident.
W-What was that...?
...and the scream had reached the hall...
...just happened to have opened at the same time...
But both doors ...


.....
I wasn't just hearing things ...
Only a few noticed.
It was nearly lost in the loud music and bustle of the hall.
But that scream ...

Help me ...!
Somebody ...!
Somebody ...!
Ngh ...
A scream...
I did hear it...
Look at the way he's fighting them...
I knew it...
Let me go...!
Somebody...!
No...!

:Aughhh
SLAM
SNATCH
Ah...!

What are they doing to them...
...inside that room?
EAST FORCE
.....
... those animals ...

Chopping them up...?
Whoever made that scream was clearly in pain...
What if...
They're breaking their legs...
...so they can't run away?
Or even ...
But these guys...
Who knows ...
...are out of their minds!

Kaiji-san!
...I gotta figure out a way...
Losing is out of the question.
We need those stars...
We're in real danger here...!
One of the players, like you asked for...!
I found him...!
He's already negotiating his next match ...!
We have to hurry ...!
But ...
He just got down to 7 cards ...
Huh ...?
Huh ...?
Hurry ...!
Ah ...

I couldn't get one...
.....
Well ...
.....
Where's the star...?
No way...!
I couldn't get anyone to listen...
Nobody wants to sell their stars yet.
Just ...
Just ...
I know ...!
If we don't do something soon...
Then what are we gonna do!?
But... How am I supposed to do that...?
How should I know!?
Ando! Go and stop that match from happening ...!
His next match is with me...!
Go and stop him!

Go ...!
Can't you figure that much out yourself!?
Talk him out of it or something ...!
I know ...
Kaiji-san...
...with the conditions I'm asking for...
There can't be that many players left...
I know that, but...
I know ...
...still left for us...
This might be the only road to success ...
This chance is too good to miss.
He...might even be the last one.

The next step is missing...!

I'll have to risk the match with only 1 star ...!

What should I do ...?

SNIFF...
Ngh ...!
SNIFF...
SNIFF...
.....
Kaiji-san...?

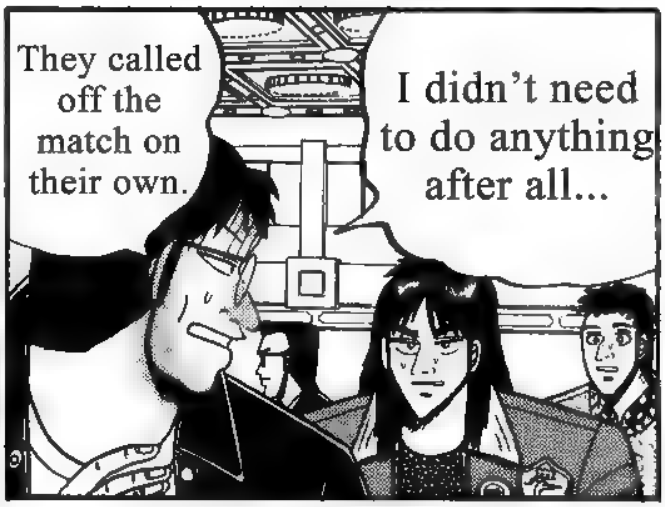
Yeah ...
Are you sure ...?
Huh ...?
Let's go...

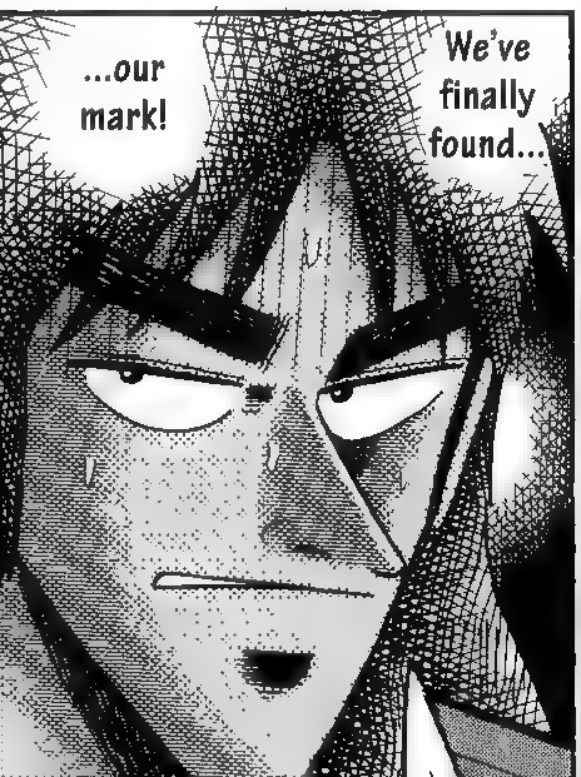
...when I reach the other side...
Or the ground will crumble beneath my feet ...
...the moment that I jump...
Maybe a gust will throw me off balance ...
...but it's close enough to jump...
The path may be missing ...
I can win...!
...then it's still close enough to jump!
But as long there are no accidents like these...
...no matter how scary it is...
There's no time to be a chicken...
Just jump...
Don't think.
Kaiji-san...
Let's go ...!
...our chance for survival slips away too.
If we let this chance go by...

Go...!
End of Chapter 12

Kaiji-san...!
Well ...?
.....
ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..

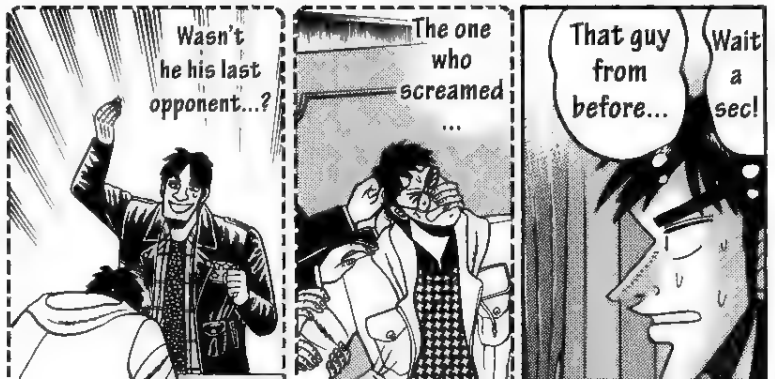
...over there, on the sofa...
It looks like he's taking a break...


They called off the match on their own.
I didn't need to do anything after all...


...our mark!
We've finally found...

I won't let him get away...!
.....

Chapter 13: Secret Maneuvers



I won't let him get away...!

...doesn't guarantee that you can start a match...
Just finding a good mark...
What ?
That's a good sign.
...when there's no match to begin with.
"Good mark" has nothing to do with you...
If the mark refuses to play then it's all over ...
The two players have to come to an agreement ...
If we don't approach him in the right way...
...we could ruin the whole shebang.
The more I think about, the more worrying that is.
It can all go up in smoke.
Any good plan is still just a pipe dream.
Uh-huh...
...getting your mark to take the bait...
It's tougher than it looks...
If we start off by looking fishy we might not recover...
If we come off like we're desperate for the match it will look strange...

Huh ...?
I don't think he'll be hard to convince.
We've already cleared his first hurdle ...
But lucky for us...
His last match ...
Whaddya mean ...?
Most of us wouldn't like playing a guy on his last star ...
I mean ...
His last match was against a man with only 1 star.
I saw him take his last star ...
I was watching it too.
In fact ...
He didn't show a trace of remorse.
If anything ...
...the moment he won ...
But to look at his face ...
Yeah ...
It would feel like you were throwing the guy to the wolves yourself.

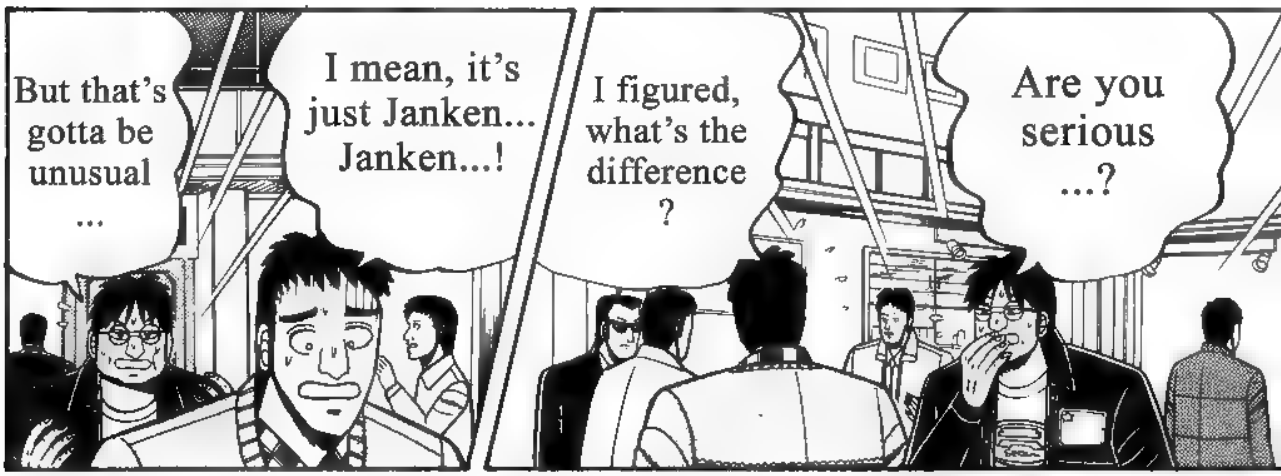
Just as I thought ...
The guy he refused to play...
5 stars .
Look at the guy Ando pointed out...
...And then...
... he looked downright pleased ...
For Limited Janken, that would mean ...
...betting against someone with only 1 or 2 stars left.
...is to bet against someone who's losing...
I think his strategy ...
You see it in roulette all the time, where someone bets against a big 'loser' in order to win.
Ah ...!
I don't think that's coincidence ...!

I'm just the kinda prey he's looking for.
Lucky for us, I'm down to my last star.
Just like a hyena ...!
...on the weakest in the herd...
In other words, he waits for the smell of death before he closes in...
Kaiji-san...
Alright ?
...I bet he'll come and approach me instead.
If I just get close and put my head in my hands ...
...looking over his cards...
I can tell by the way he's sitting there on the sofa ...
Don't worry... We couldn't have asked for a better target...
Hmph ...
He's just the mark I was looking for ...
His style is all about balance.

We've got a good 80% chance of grabbing a star.
And don't worry.
Alright, I'm off.
Balance
Balance ...?
Okay ...
What do you think he's talking about...?
.....
I'm not really sure...
I don't know ...
What does he mean, balance ...?
.....

...and losing or gaining stars is still a matter of winning or losing matches...
After all, we're stuck with whatever money we borrowed at the start...
The cards ...?
...but he's probably talking about the cards.
That must be what he means by balance ...
It's the only decision left in our own hands...
Yeah ...?
...and which card we're gonna play next...
The only thing we can control is the cards...
.....
Oo
... you're right ...
There's no way to be balanced about the money or stars.
I see ...
What ...?
What were you thinking ...?
Huh ...?
What about you...?

...and pulled out the first card I grabbed.
What ?
...I just stuck my hands into my pockets ...
The truth is...
...since you only had 3 scissors and 1 paper left ...
I mean... I was just wondering what you were thinking...
Oh ...

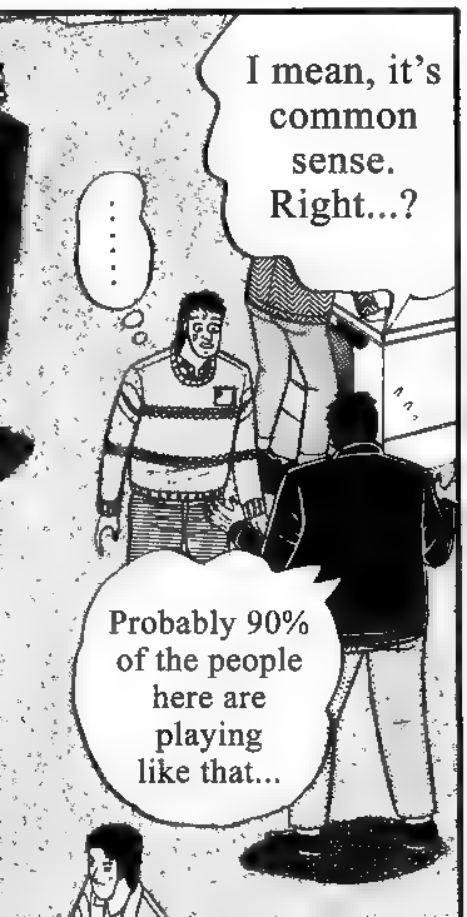

But that's gotta be unusual ...
I mean, it's just Janken... Janken...!
I figured, what's the difference ?
Are you serious ...?

Oh ...
Balance ...!
Huh ...?
Most people would try to be more balanced ...

How should I put it ...?
I didn't really mean anything by it...
Uh... no...
Do you know what he was talking about then...? About balance...?

We've only got 4 scissors, so there's no balance.

...about the trouble we're in right now...
I was just thinking ...


I mean, it's common sense. Right...?
.....
Probably 90% of the people here are playing like that...

They'd probably pick their cards carefully, so they'd still be able to choose...
I mean ...
...right down to the final matches.

Usually ...
Ah ...

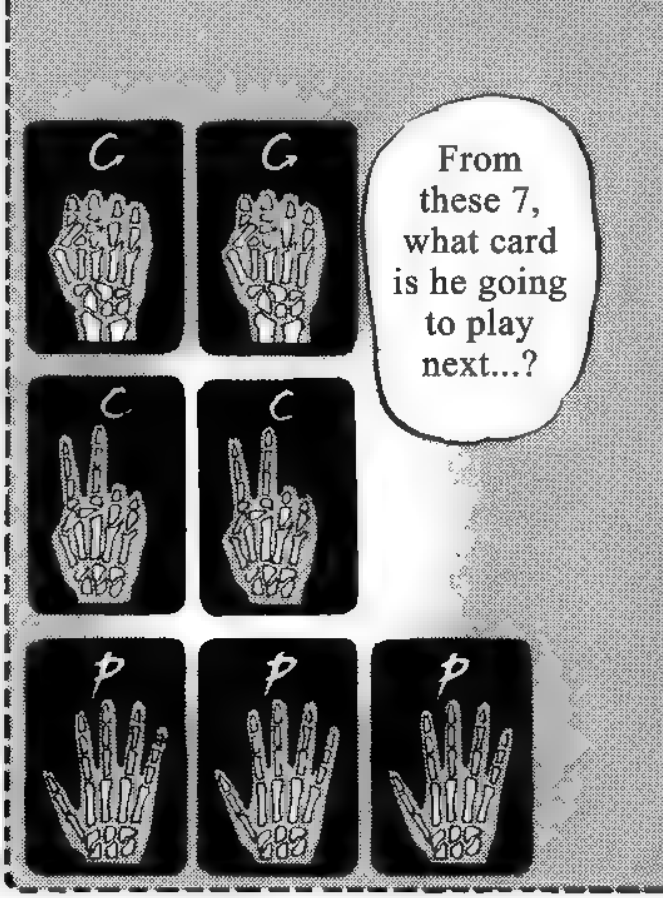
... to avoid getting into this situation.
People would choose their cards better...

So they might as well stick with a balanced approach.
...to victory ...
They just want to relax and skate through ...
...aren't willing to change course now.
Especially the guys who are winning...
...it wouldn't really matter.
...as long as they still had an even set...
But ...
...and everyone saw their cards...
For instance, if an accident happened...
Ando ...
So Maybe ... ...
That's it...!
...it could be disastrous.
If their cards were skewed ...
They might be crushed afterwards, and lose it all...

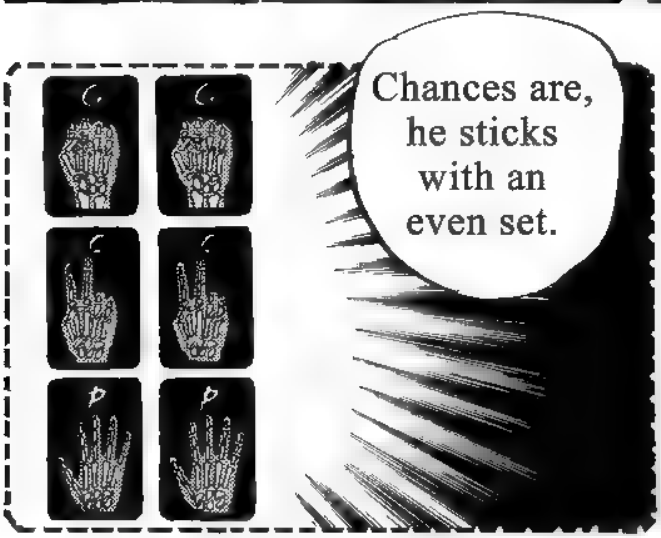
...he pointed out that guy looking over his cards...
Before Kaiji-san walked off...
...and said that he was all about balance...
...was talking about!
That must be what Kaiji-san ...
?
Imagine if he had 7 cards left...
Think about it.
...he has a balanced hand.
...he has 5 stars, but because ...
I think Kaiji-san was trying to say, it's not just because ...
Look at how confident he looks.
...and nothing but rocks and paper.
Of course ...
...between rocks, paper and scissors!
The rest of his hand must be balanced ...
Which means ...
Do you think he'd be so pleased with himself...?

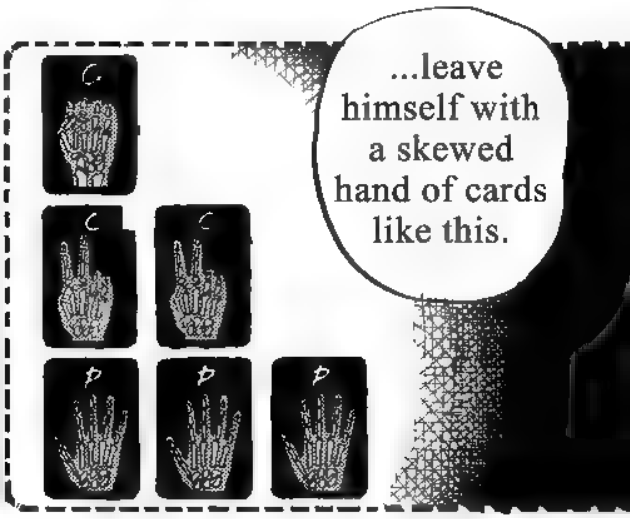
Yeah ...?
If we just knew ...
...what that card was...
Still ...
There's 1 extra card.
It's obvious ...!
That's it...!
Huh ...!?
Ahh ...!

...he threw down a rock and a scissors.
Remember ? In his last 2 matches...
Which means ...
It's paper ...!
...we can guess...
If he was really thinking about balance when he played...
...that from these 9 cards...
... he played rock and scissors ...
... leaving him with these 7!
The chance must be really high...!
Yeah ...! Yeah ...!
And that means ...
What's next ...?


From these 7, what card is he going to play next...?

He probably doesn't want to...
Yeah ...
It's obvious ...!


Chances are, he sticks with an even set.


...leave himself with a skewed hand of cards like this.

He's going to play paper!

... paper !

It's gotta be...

The guy with 7 on the move...
...is cards...
Furuhata -san...
That must be the strategy ...
...that Kaiji-san hit on. It's all about balance.
Ah ...!
He's coming over...
Just like Kaiji-san said!
.....
They're gonna play...
They're standing up...
That guy's strategy ...
...is to go after the weak.
Check ...!
It's all going like Kaiji-san said...
Yes ...
Just like he said ...
Furuhata-san, they're gonna play...
.....

Up in smoke...

End of Chapter 13.

Chapter 14: The Match

ざわ‥
ざわ‥

...someone who plays a balanced game...
...his opponent would have to be...
...who controls his hand to a certain extent...

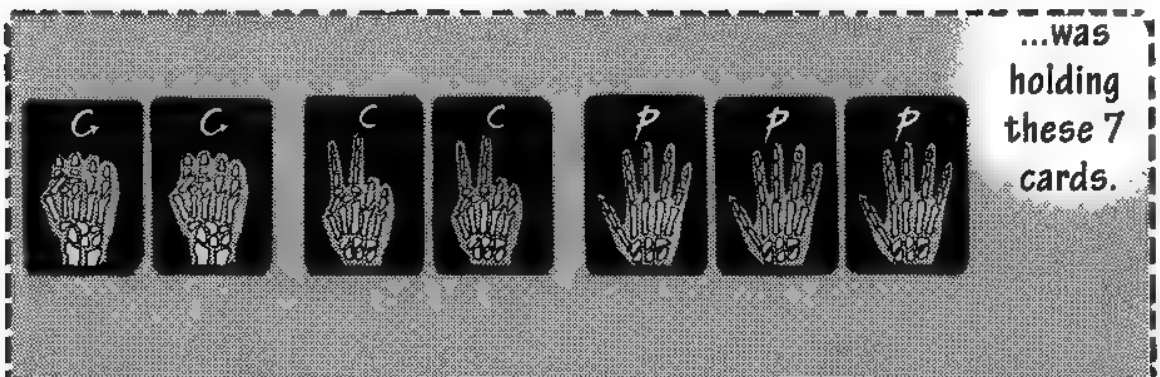
For Kaji's plan to work...

.....

Then chances are his opponent...
If Kaiji-san was right...

...without thinking of the consequences...

...who continues to rely on intuition, playing...
...and must not be the stupid type...

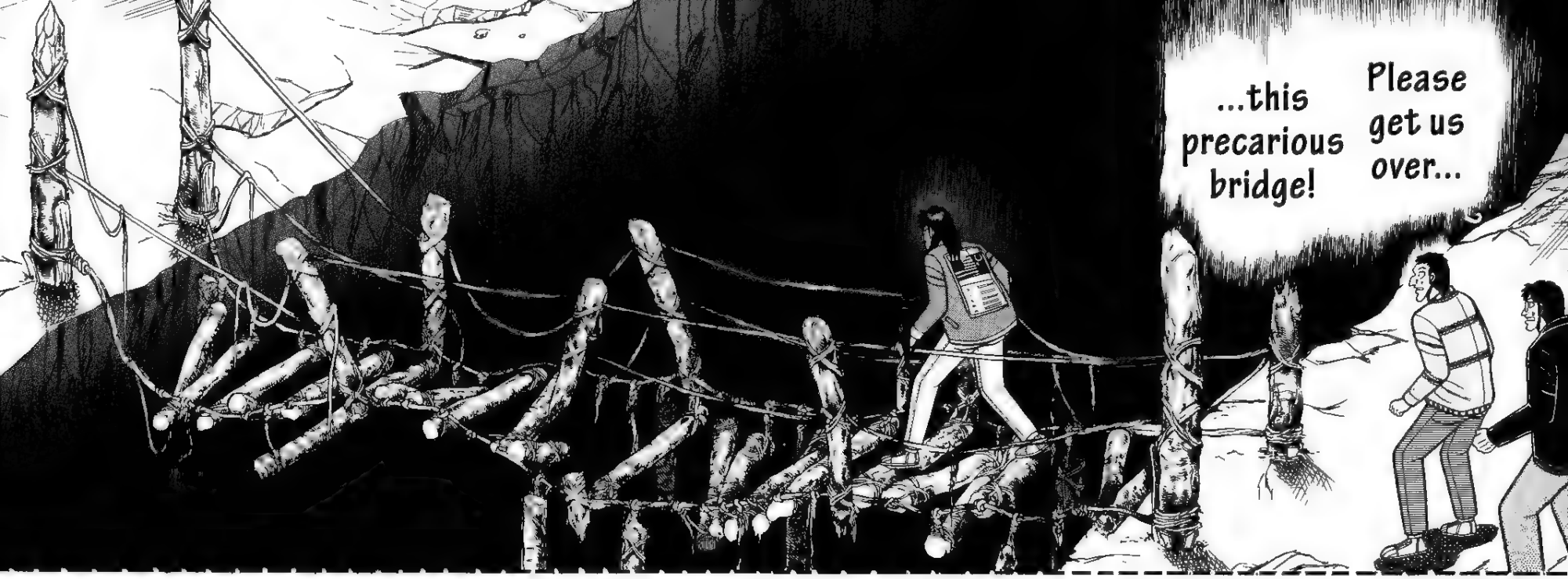

G
G
C
C
P
P
P
...was holding these 7 cards.

That leaves him with these 7 cards.
...is almost definitely paper!
Remember ...
In his last 2 matches he played rock and scissors...
So his extra card...

The whole plan is based on speculation.
Which means ...
But ...
... will almost definitely be that paper.
Then the next cards he plays...
If he really is worried about balance...

Set ...!
...on his opponent's whim.
It's like a house of cards.
...it could all be overturned ...
Kaiji-san...
... so-called plan ...!
...we've already put our fate...
...into this fragile...
But ...

Go ...!
Argh ...
Kaiji-san...
Ah ...
Just this once...!
Please ...
Oh God, please ...!
Ngh ...

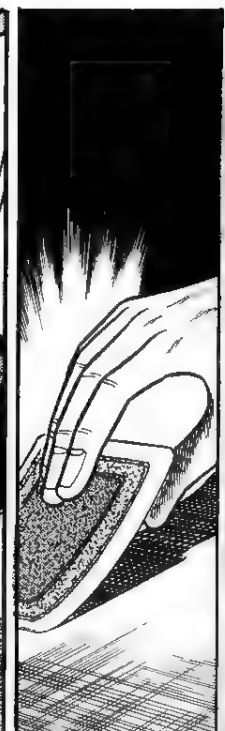

...this precarious bridge!
Please get us over...

But what about him ...!?
We knew that, already ...!

Kaiji-san played scissors ...

Ngh ...!

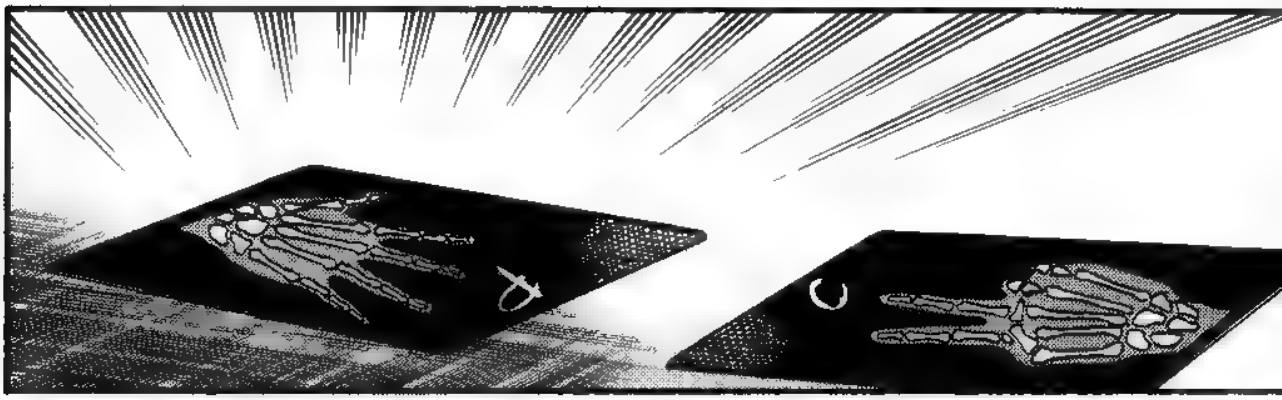
SLAP



SLAP
Ah
...
!

Phew
...
Phew
...

Kaiji-san!
You can't ...!
No way ...!
Kaiji-san...!
Huh ...?



Wait ...
Wait ...
Huh ...?

We won ...!
We won ...!
HOORAY!
We did it!

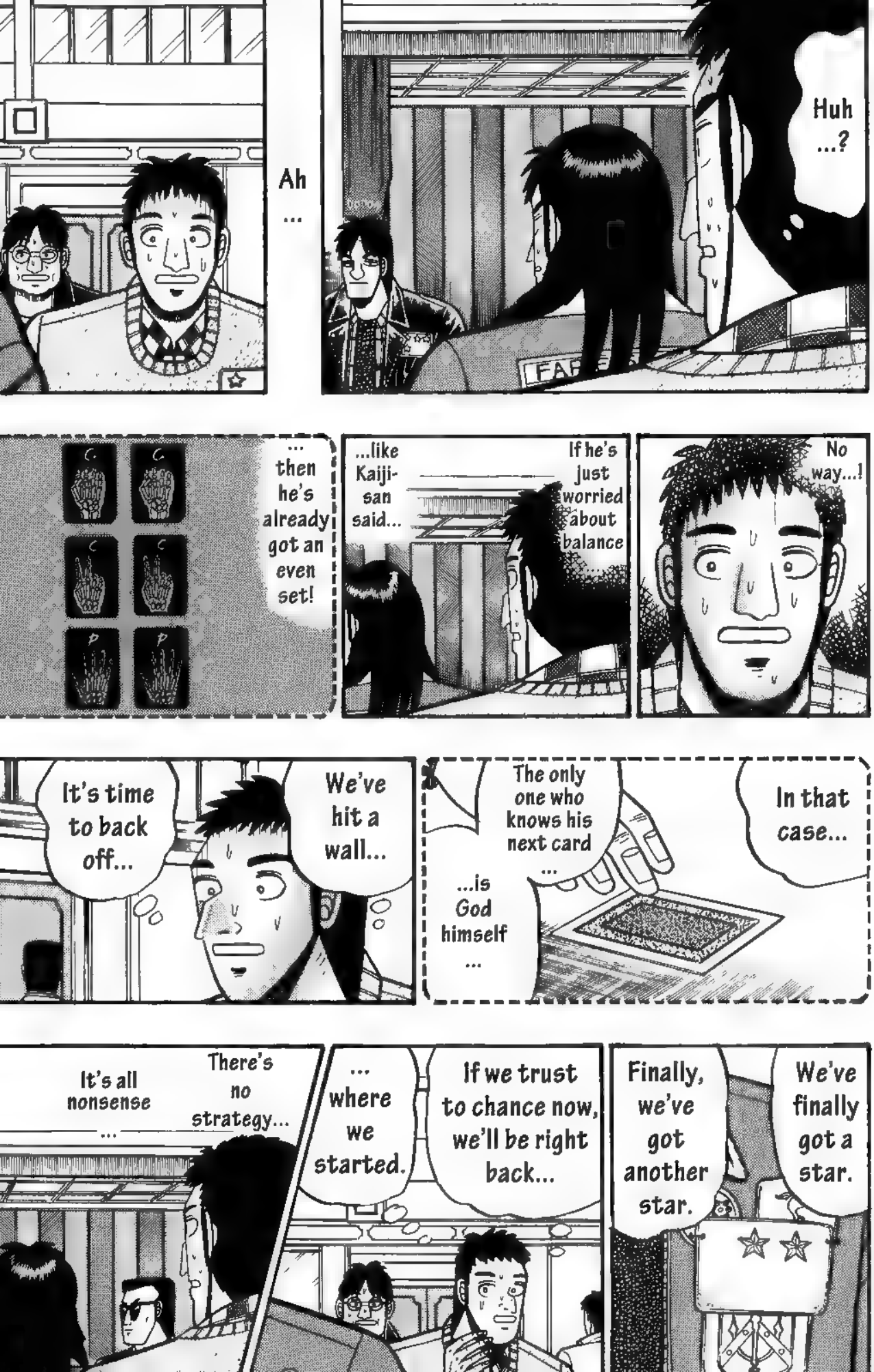
Tsk ...
ざわ..
ざわ..

You really scared us there!
For a second... I thought you had lost...
Hmph

FWAP

.....
RIP

So you got one star...
Whoop de doo, you morons ...
MUTTER
MUTTER
...
Hold on.
.....
Come back here...! Take your position ...!
We're not finished yet...
Say what ?
B-But, Kaiji-san...
It's time for another match ...!


Ah ...
Huh ...?
... then he's already got an even set!
...like Kaiji-san said...
If he's just worried about balance ...
No way...!
It's time to back off...
We've hit a wall...
The only one who knows his next card ...
...is God himself ...
In that case...
It's all nonsense ...
There's no strategy...
... where we started.
If we trust to chance now, we'll be right back...
Finally, we've got another star.
We've finally got a star.

K... Kaiji-san...
Kaiji-san, wait...
Huh ...?
Deep breaths. Deep breaths.
WHOO
HAH
Don't let yourself get worked up...
.....
A 2nd match wasn't planned.
You won 1, just like you planned
Let's just leave it at that.
It won't pay to get greedy.
.....
I understand.
It's easy to get carried away and go for a winning streak...
Oh ...
So you guys get it, don't you ...?
...you're the ones who need to take a deep breath.
In that case...
Think carefully. We still have a lot of stars to take before we can rest easy.
We've still got 5, 6 stars to go.

Win and then keep going ...!
At this rate... If we don't go after that "winning streak" we're goners.
We're not gonna reach that goal without a lot of wins.
...figured that much out!?
Haven't you guys...
I'm going to win ...!
Just leave it to me...
But Kaiji-san...
Uh huh ...
.....
I'll win and then I'll be back...
.....
FORCE

But the truth ...
...they were friends or buddies.

They don't know each other.
These dweebs.
I thought maybe ...
EAST AIR FORCE

Once they got down to 1 star ...
...they got scared...
...is they're just like rats fleeing a sinking ship.

Nothing but a pack of cowards.
They didn't want to face it alone.
...and formed a team.

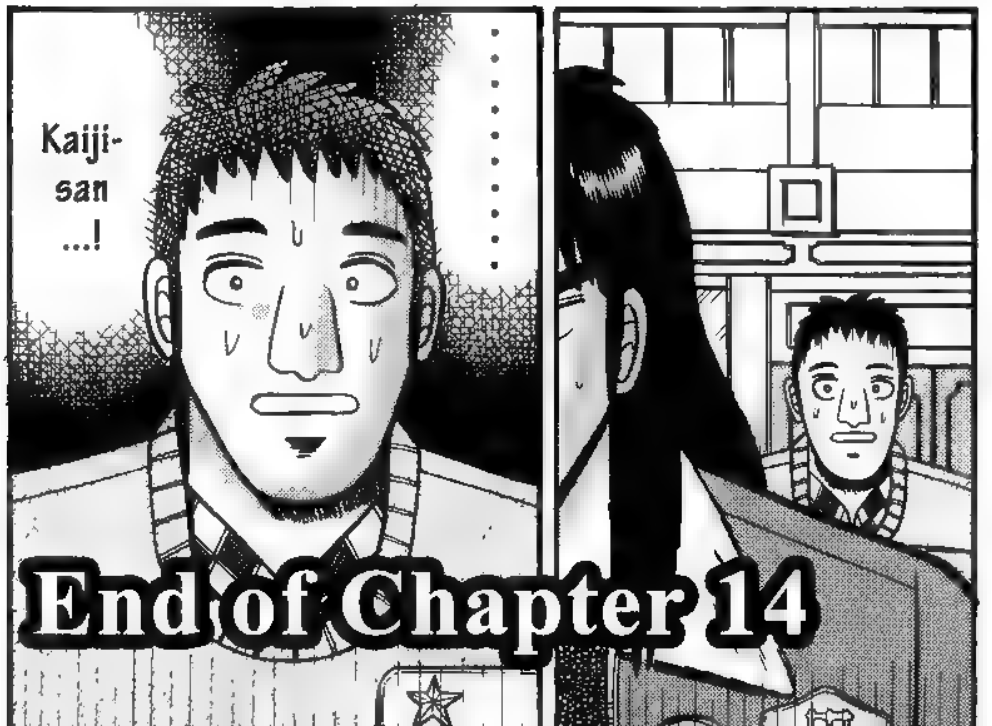
: Hehehe

The biggest game of their lives and they're plum out of luck.
You almost gotta feel sorry for them.

Sure, why not.
Are you gonna play or what ...?
EAR EAST IR FOR

Well? Which is it ...?

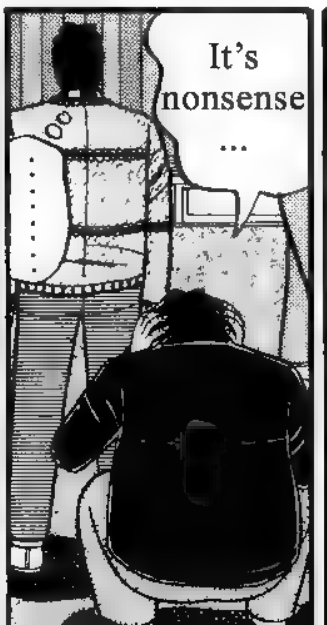
Alright ...!
.....
Kaiji-san ...
Let's go ...!
: Hehehe
...ain't ever gonna win 2 in a row!
A bunch of losers like you
...but luck ain't on your side tonight, ladies.
Hate to break it you...
Letting yourself get carried away by just 1 win.
It's a shame ...
...and let yourself get carried away!
Couldn't read the signs...
You simpleton...
: Hehehe

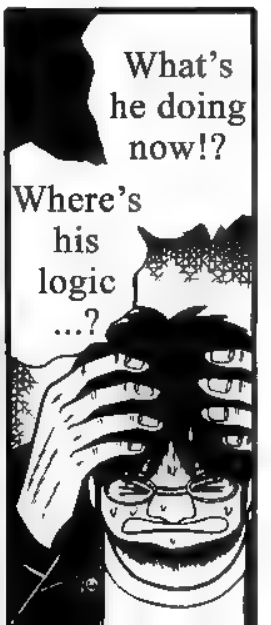


Now I'm gonna crush you...!

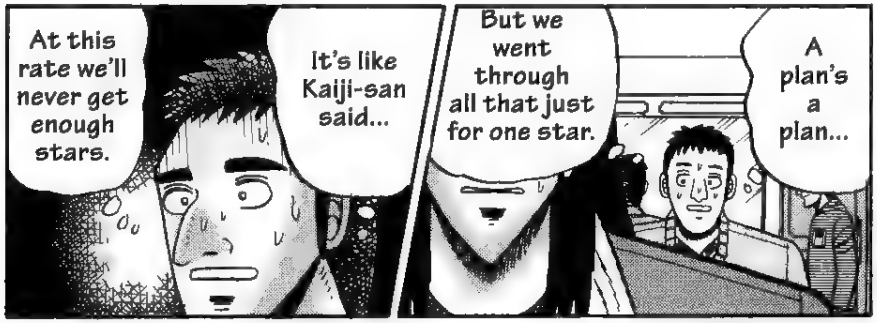
End of Chapter 14

A second match where you cannot predict the opponent's next card...





Chapter 15: Rampage


At this rate we'll never get enough stars.
It's like Kaiji-san said...
But we went through all that just for one star.
A plan's a plan...

We just gotta ...
We can't win any if we don't take our chances...
... we're gonna have to trust the luck of the draw.
At some point ... In the end ...

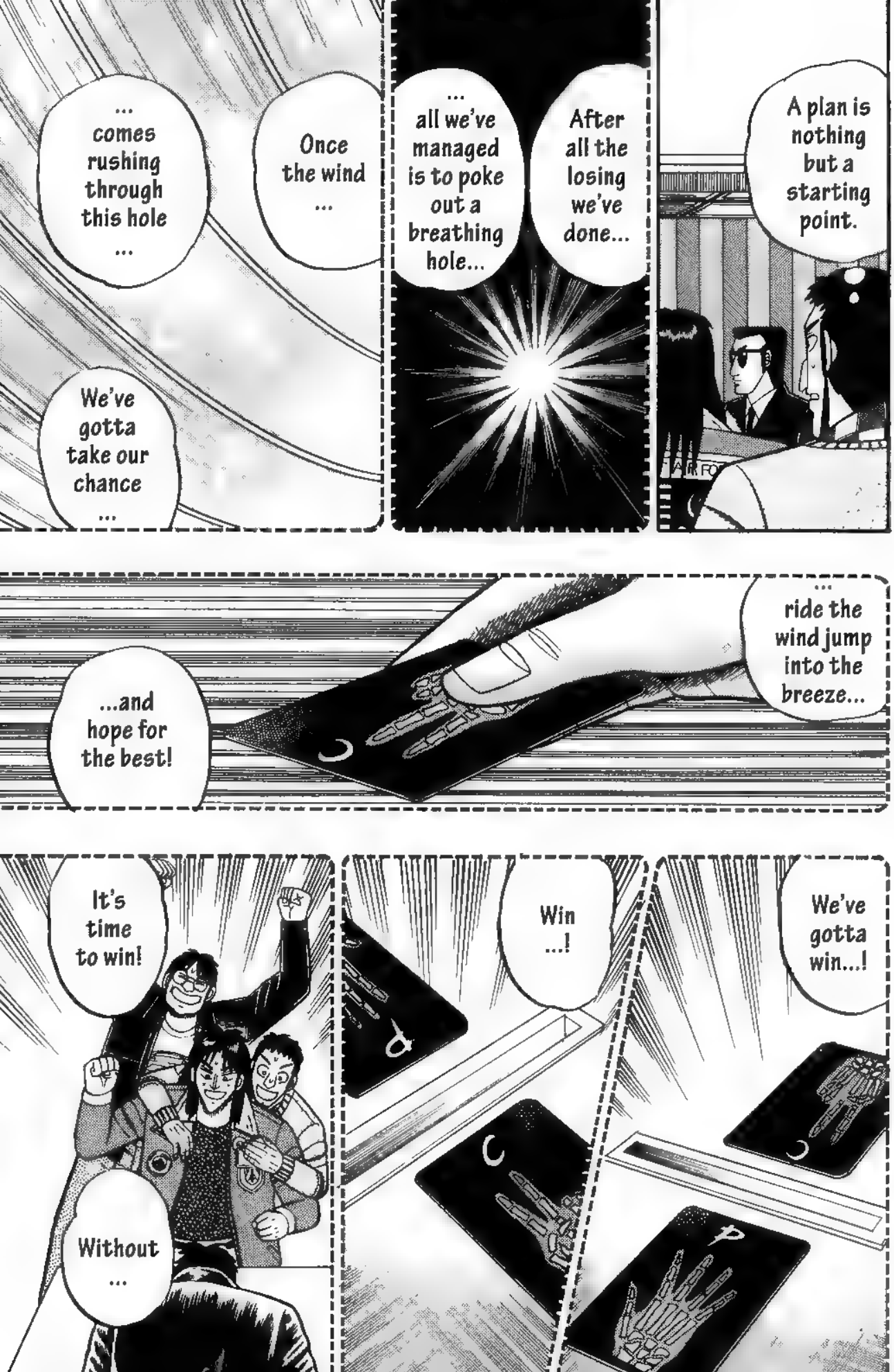
let loose ...
and fly!

That's not gonna get us to 9 stars.

Not everything can be covered by a plan ...!

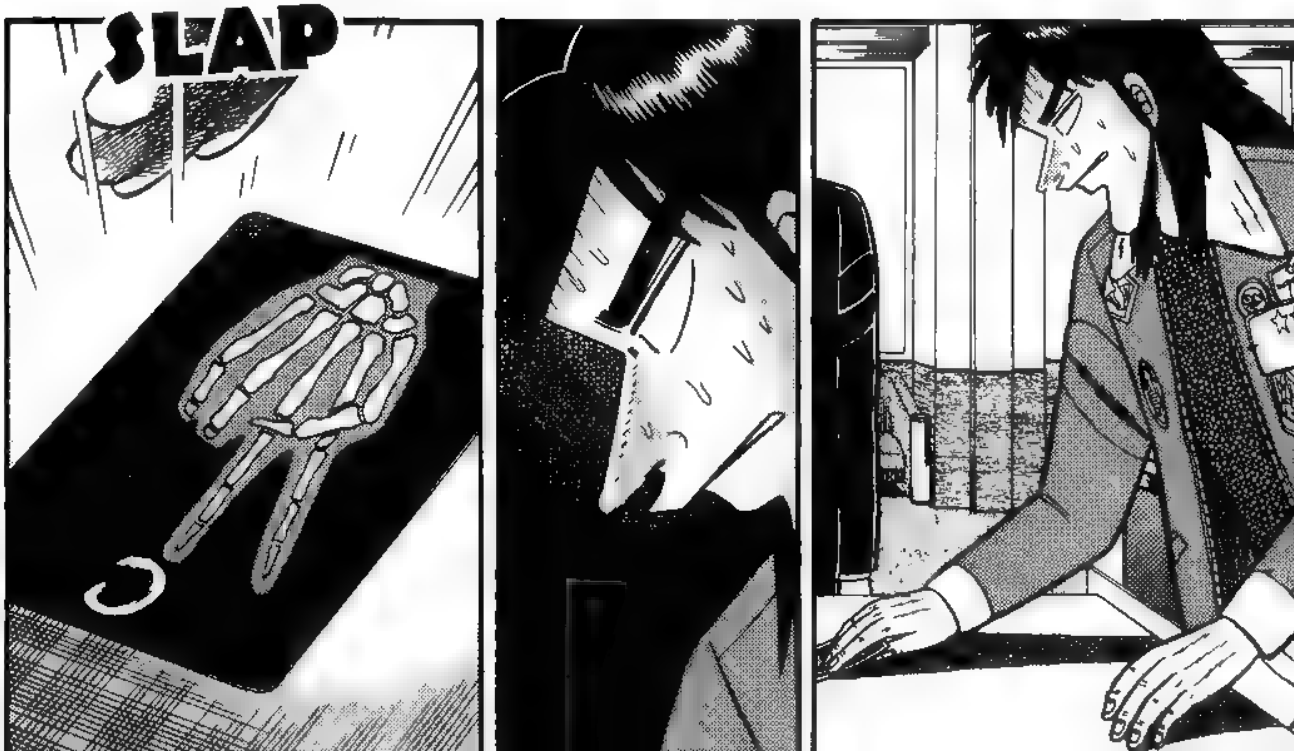
Kaiji-san must have figured it out in the last match...
If we doddle around ...

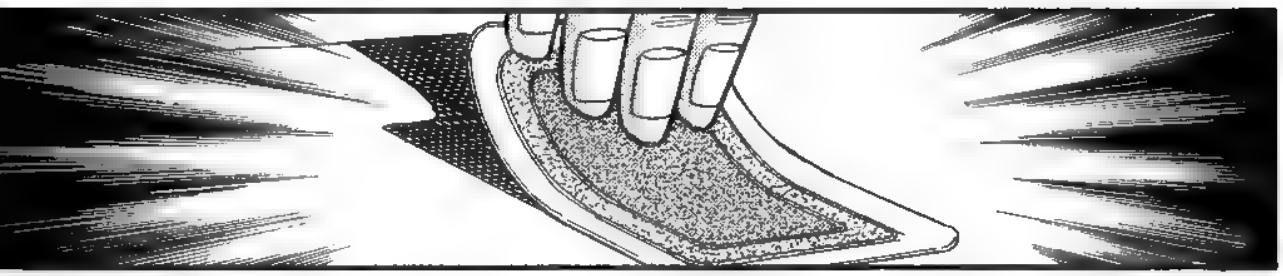
... we'll end up going in circles ...
... and never get 9 stars.

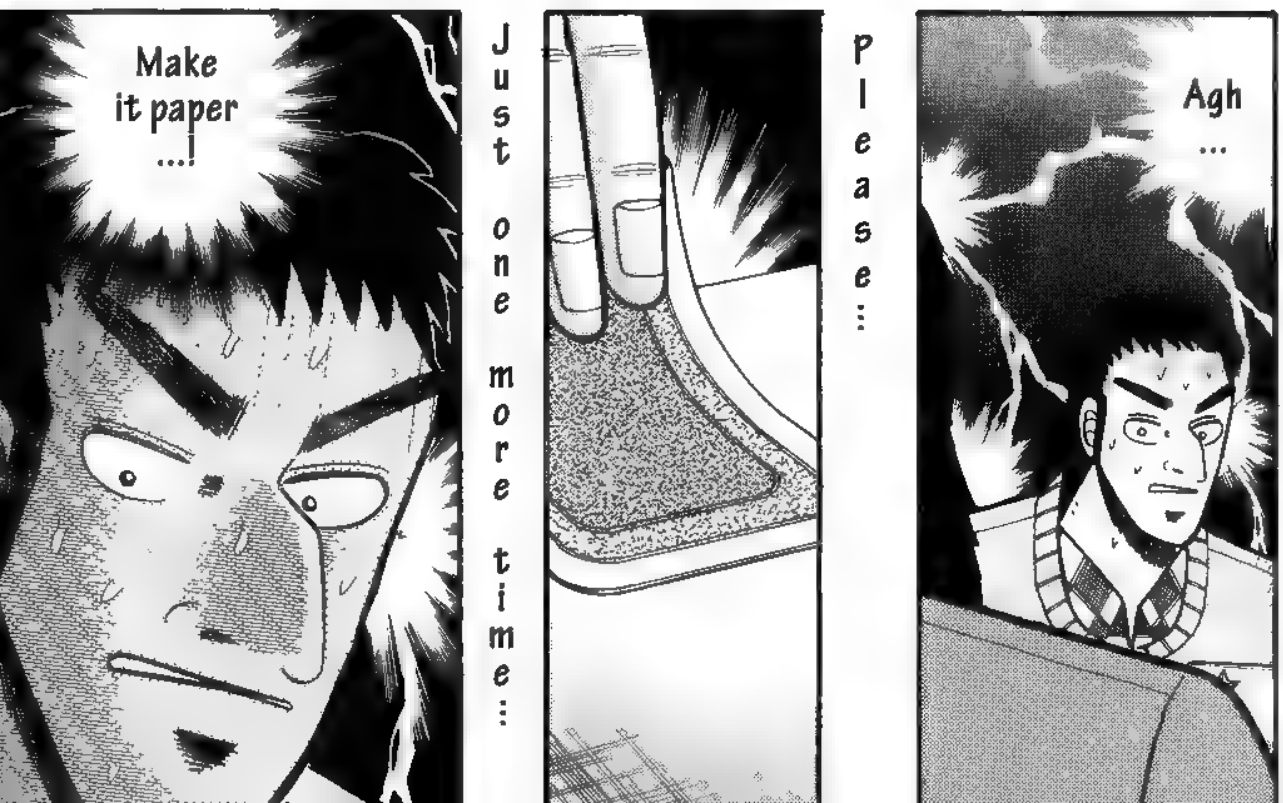

A plan is nothing but a starting point.
After all the losing we've done...
...all we've managed is to poke out a breathing hole...
Once the wind ...
...comes rushing through this hole ...
We've gotta take our chance ...
...ride the wind jump into the breeze...
...and hope for the best!
We've gotta win...!
Win ...!
It's time to win!
Without ...

...there's no hope for us to survive!
...a miracle winning streak like that ...

Go ...!

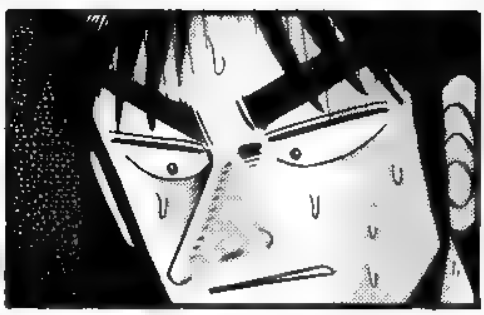

SLAP




Agh ...
Please...
Just one more time...
Make it paper ...!

FWAP

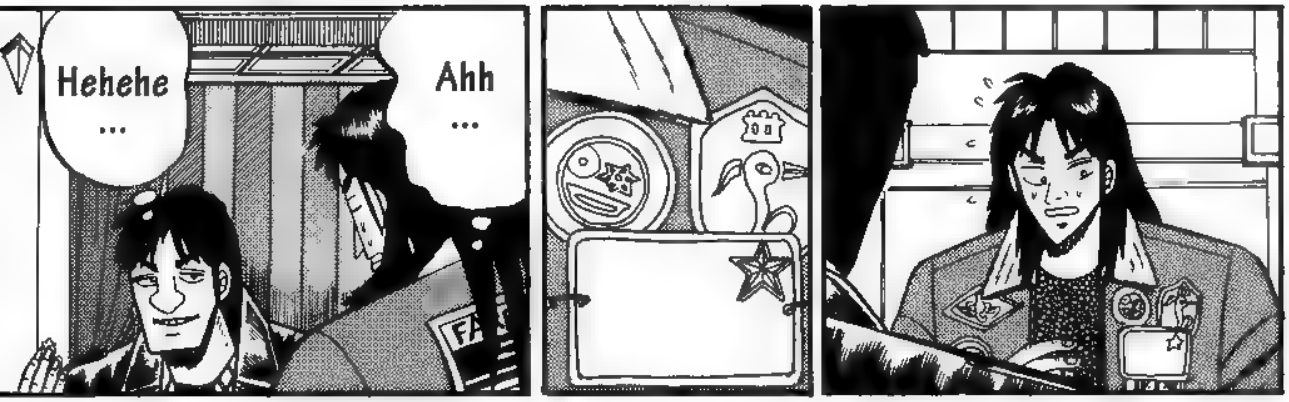
Ahh
...



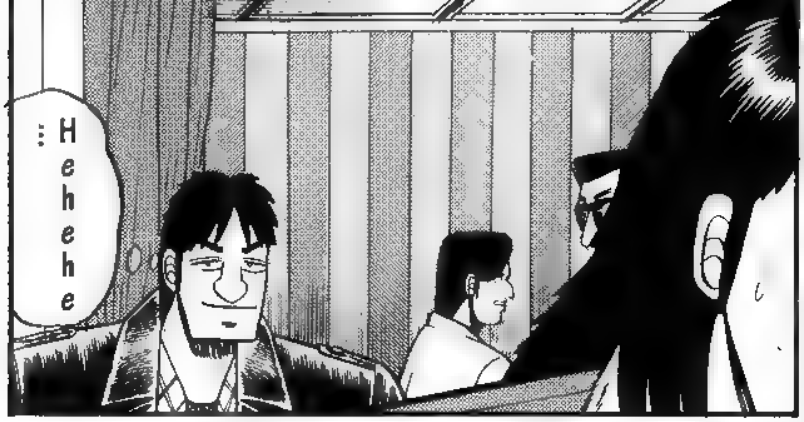
Ngh
...

Ah
...

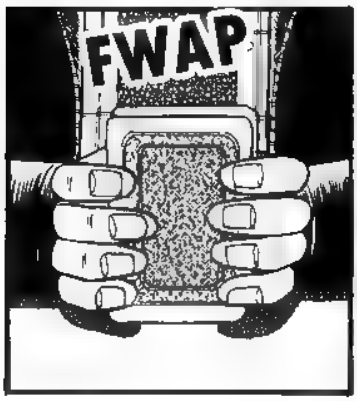
Hehehe
Didn't I tell you this would happen!?
I knew we were gonna lose!
RIP
Ahhhh!


Hehehe ...
Ahh ...

Huh ...?
Kaiji-san, let's go ...
.....
What were you expecting?
Idiot ...
That first win was just a fluke.

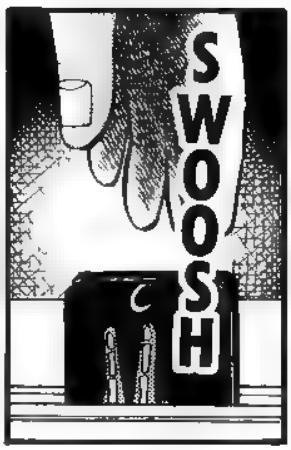

Hehehe

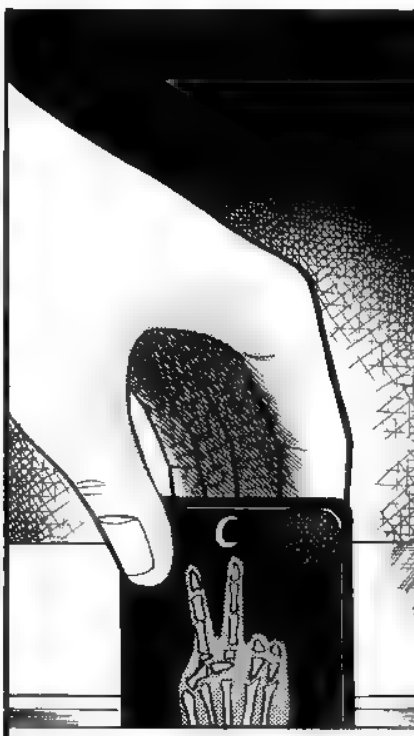
Come on...!
Yeah ...


FWAP

I wish everyone was thatso gullible...
Seriously.

THWUNK


SWOOSH



Hey ...!
That must mean...
Wait a sec ...
.....
Let's play another match...!
Where're you going ...!?
?
GRAB
Huh ...?

ざわ…
ざわ…
Come on, one more …!

He's not worth it.
Yeah …
Kaiji-san, let's go.
……
… to return the favor.
Now it's your turn …

No one's talking to you.
Do you really think we're that stupid!?
You gotta be kidding!
Get real …!

I should've known better...
Ngh …
……
……

… didn't I give you one?
When you begged me for a second round...
How about it?
……
… to Kaiji-san here.
I was talking …

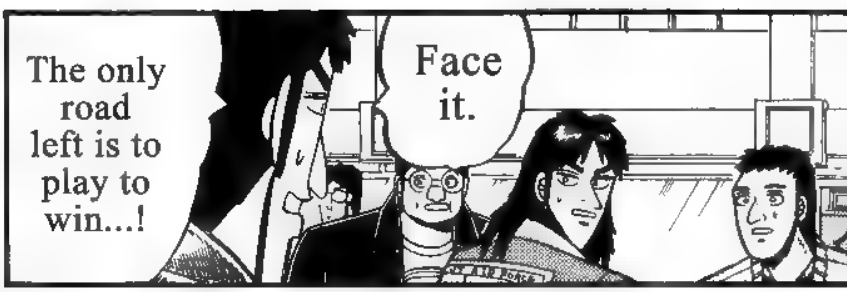
Guess a wuss like you can't decide anything on his own ...!

... feeling sorry for yourself.
You're not gonna win any stars sitting around...

Come on.

.....
... Kaiji-san!
AIR FORCE

Come on, it's so obvious!
He's just trying to get to you!
It's almost embarrassing to watch


The only road left is to play to win...!
Face it.

Let's go. Kaiji ...!

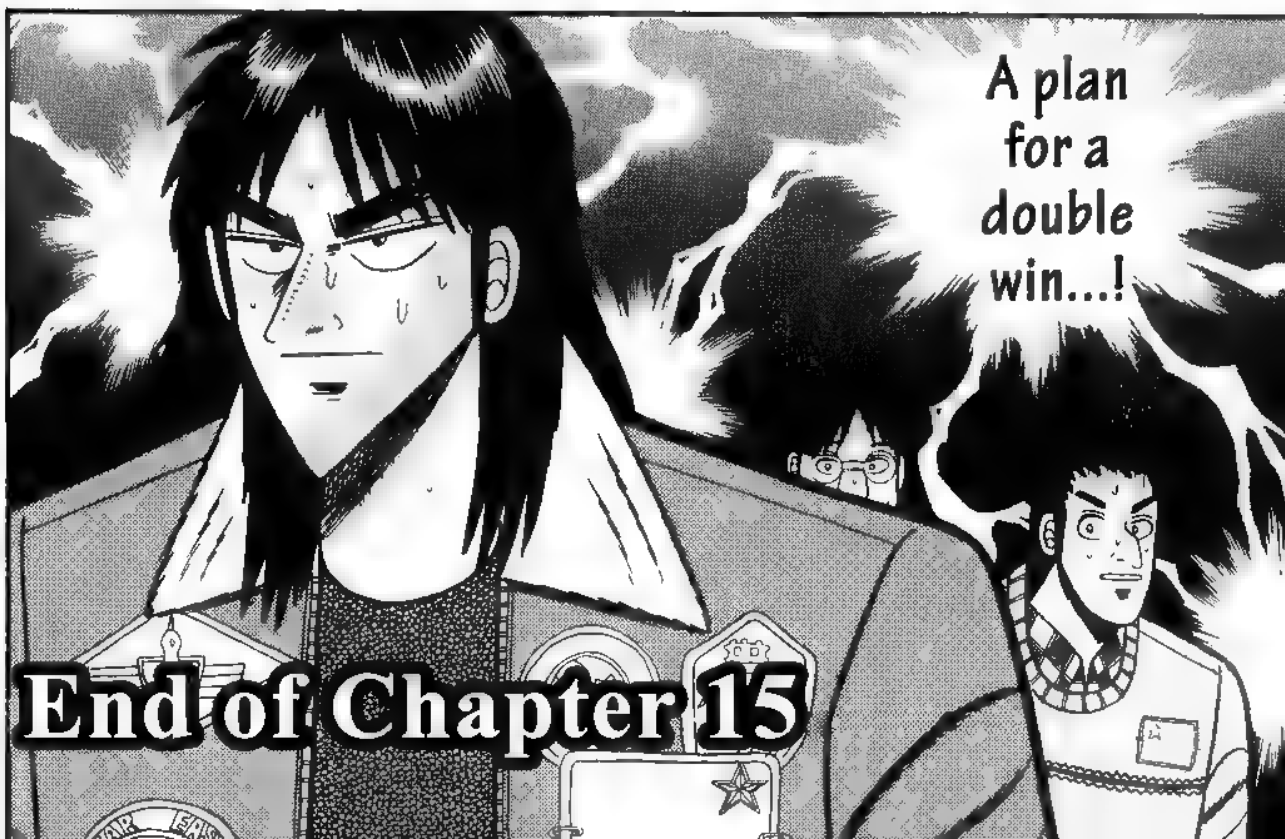
If we back down now we'll never win any stars ...
It just like he said.
Huh ...?
I won't back down ...!
No ...
... right ?
Let's get going ...
Think about what you're saying...!
K-Kaiji-san ...! You gotta listen to us!
.....
.....
Kaiji-san ...!
HUSTLE
You've only got 1 star...!
Don't do it ...!
Are you two stupid ...!?

Can't you see that I'm acting ...?
PSST
Can't you see I'm baiting him...?
I already planned for it.
I knew I might lose that one...
Wha ...?
Shhh ...!
WHAT ...!?

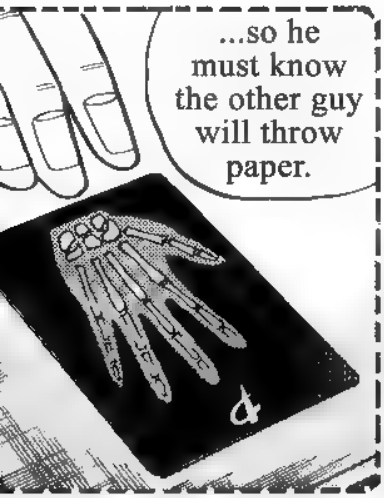
The fish has just taken the bait.
Ahh ...
Be quiet ...!
AIR FORCE
All that's left now is ...
... to reel him in and catch him in my net.
FWUD
Kaiji-san ...
We can't let him slip away.
So just cool it already.
Relax.
I'm about to win two in a row ...
.....
.....
Huh...!?

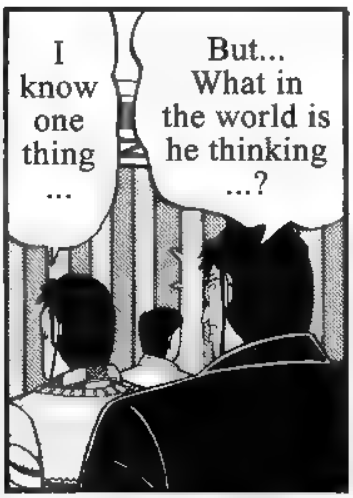
I don't know, but ...
In the end ...
.....
PSST
I don't know ...!
Furuhata -san...!
B-But... What in the world is he thinking ...!?
PSST

I'm sure he's got a good plan...

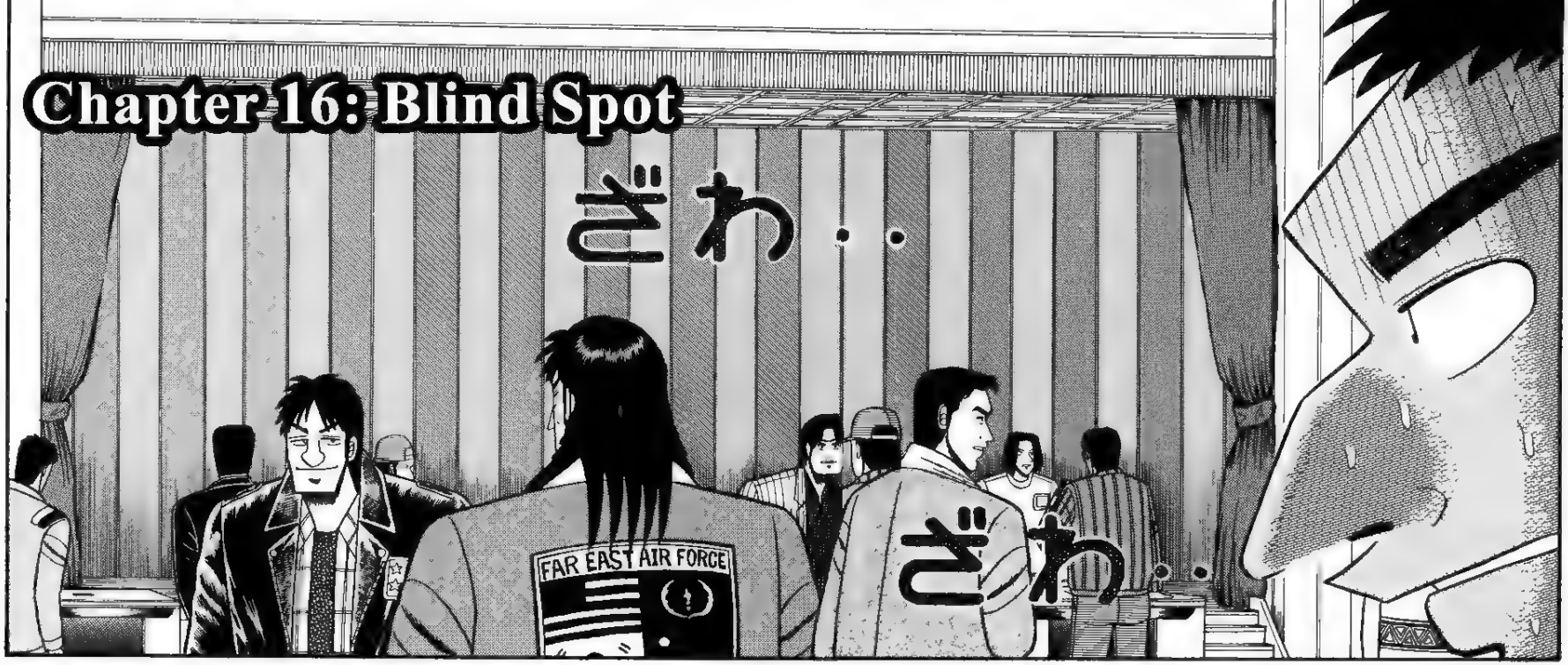

A plan for a double win...!
End of Chapter 15

A Plan for a double win...!!





Chapter 16: Blind Spot



...I don't think he would do it.

Unless he thinks he's got a sure bet...

Which means ...

...2 papers does seem pretty unlikely.

I suppose, if you think about his playing style up until now...

Don't you remember ...?

There's no way he'd play that way!

.....

No way ...!

... in throwing down a paper.

He must feel safe ...

Sure that Kaiji-san is going to play rock...

Or, at least ...

... he must be pretty sure, too ...

In order for him to play paper ...

Yeah ...

Seriously, Furuhata-san ... It's just not possible...!

He'd never skew his hand like that...

Kaiji-san said his playing style was all about balance ...!

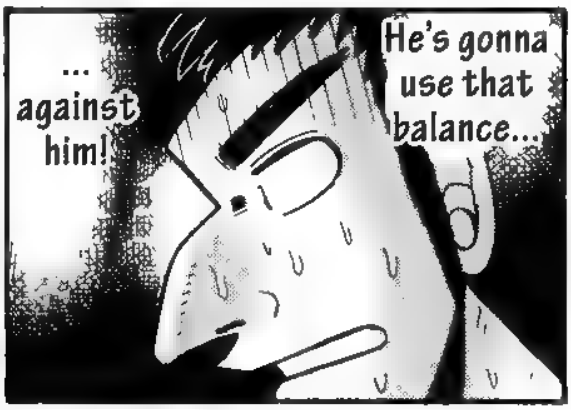
...is so sure that his opponent will play paper twice in a row.

Incredible...!

I get it now...

He's turning the tables ...!

Ando ...
... Furuhata-san?

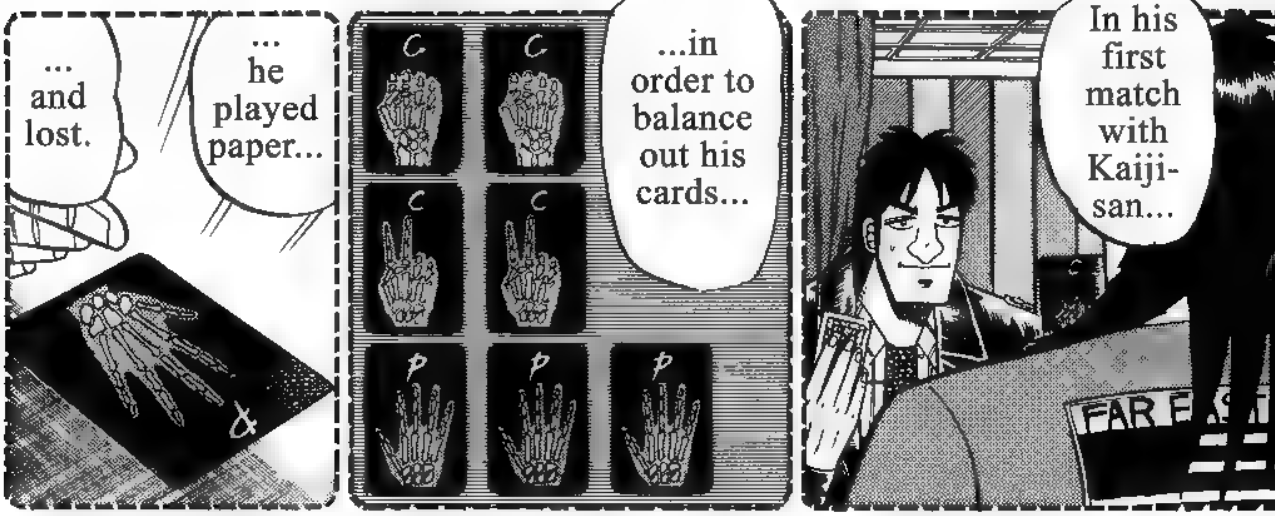

... against him!
He's gonna use that balance...

.....
SEOU

That guy is gonna throw down 2 papers...!
He's right.

Huh ...?
Kaiji-san's going to win!

That guy won all of his stars by worrying ...
... about balance.
: Remember
HUH ...!?


... and lost.
... he played paper...
...in order to balance out his cards...
In his first match with Kaiji-san...

His playing rock was all down to luck.
There was no question of balance ...
As far as he was concerned, it didn't matter what he played.
... his cards were already balanced.
For the second match ...

... after this.
And the third match...
There's no doubt about it.
... of these two matches ...
Now you can see the way he was thinking and the results...
He won ...
But it's ready for a comeback now...
... seemed to be washed away...
... and his "balance logic"...
That second match was a matter of luck...
... because of that...
He's so sure of himself ...
Yeah ...
A... comeback ...?
.....
...that he was so insistent about challenging Kaiji-san to another match.
And it's because he' so sure of himself ...

What's he gonna think after seeing those first 2 matches...?
Just think about it.
: H m p h
Huh ...?
...two scissors in a row?
Seeing Kaiji-san play...
...with only 4 scissors.
...that Kaiji-san still has 2 scissors. That he started off...
He'll never guess...
...because he doesn't think anyone would play that way.
He'll never guess ...
Right ...?
Ahh ...!

...about the cards Kaiji-san has now.

From this, you can guess what he has on his mind...

Basically, Kaiji-san is turning the tables on his whole strategy.

He can't imagine that anyone would use all of their rocks and paper...

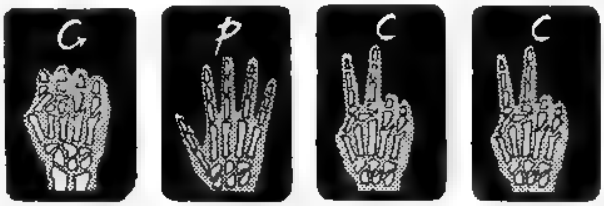
His whole strategy is about balance.

...and leave themselves with only scissors.

At the very least, 3 scissors...

...were Kaiji-san's 4 starting cards.

He probably thinks these...



... is impossible ...

... then the only possibility ...

...is a rock and a paper.

If he thinks Kaiji-san's hand is balanced ...

... a sure bet like that is almost entirely out of the question.

Since this whole Limited Janken is mostly a game of luck...

It's just too good for him to pass up!

He thinks he can't lose...!

... is paper, he thinks he'll be safe.

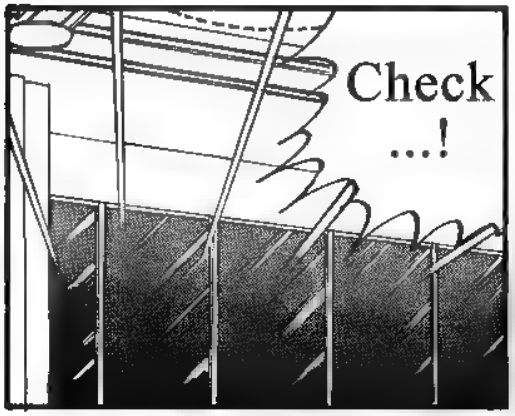
So as long as his next card ...

...he never would have been so insistent about challenging Kaiji-san to another match.

If he hadn't worked that whole strategy out ...

Kaiji-san didn't challenge him himself ...
... figured that out for himself.

...until he was sure the guy had...
But Kaiji-san waited ...


Check ...!

...for the guy to challenge him.
Instead he waited...

... just stepped in the mud ...
His opponent ...

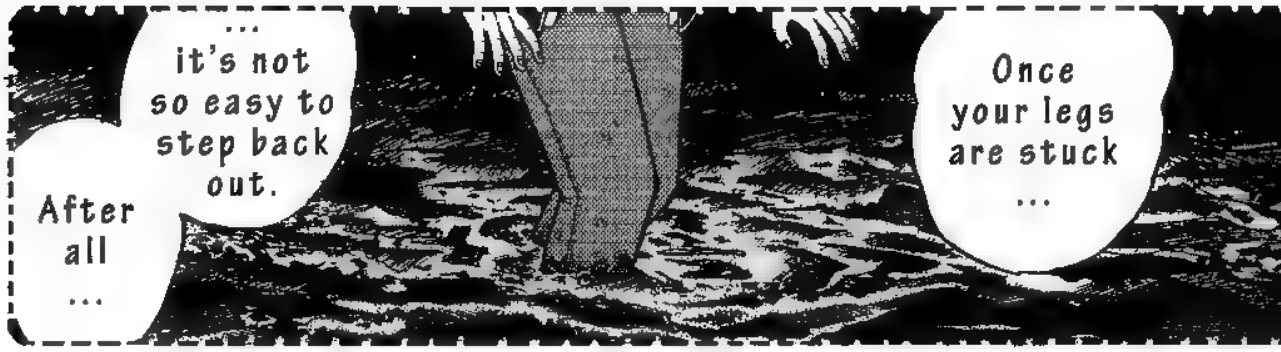
Waited for the challenge...

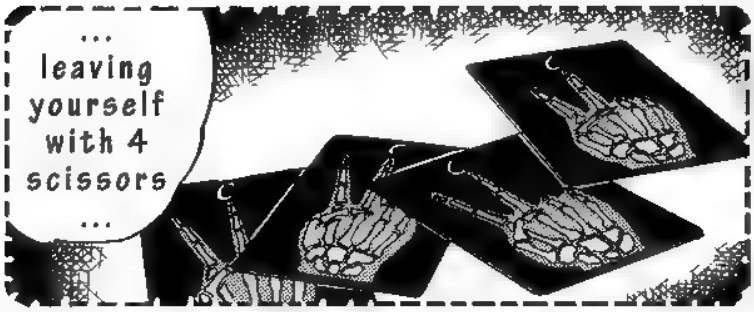
He waited...!
Ah ...!

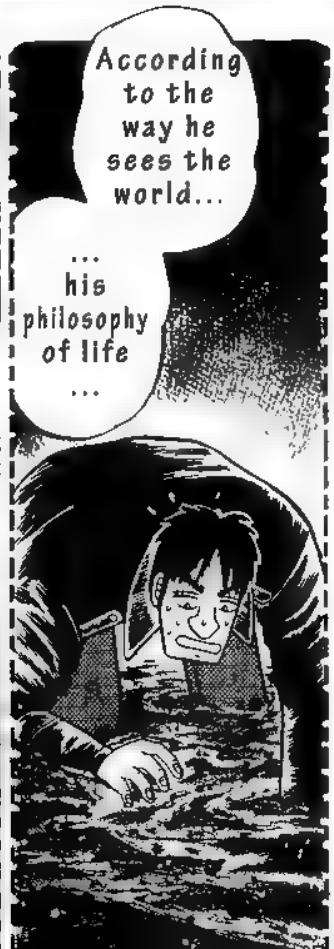
The way he waited is what made it such a smooth operation.
That was the important point.
Set ...!
...with that hangdog face.
...
he can't read his opponent's mind...
He'd have doubted himself.
If Kaiji-san had challenged him...
Time to take out the trash ...!
: Hehehe
Go ...!
So Kaiji-san waited ...!
SLAP
Victim number 3...!
Hell's waiting for you in the next room!
He waited with that heartbroken face ...

SLAP
Huh ... ?
RIP
It can't be...!
N-No way ...!

Wait ...!
W ...
Ah ...
Later ...
Give me 1 more match ...!
Kaiji, wait!
Come on... Come back...
That's right ...
Another match ...?
.....
Hmph
Furuhata-san ...!
He really stepped in it...







It's just not possible ...!

It can't ... !

This time I'll win ...!
I know it ...!
I'm gonna win ...!
SLAP
4
... he's got 4 scissors !
There's no way ...
In gambling ...
It will lead straight to ruin.
... thinking like this guy's is the most dangerous of all.
SLAP
It's like foundering in mud.
... because the first three were scissors ...
Believing that another scissors can't come...

Go...for the fourth match...!

As the road crumbles you sink in...

... up to your neck !

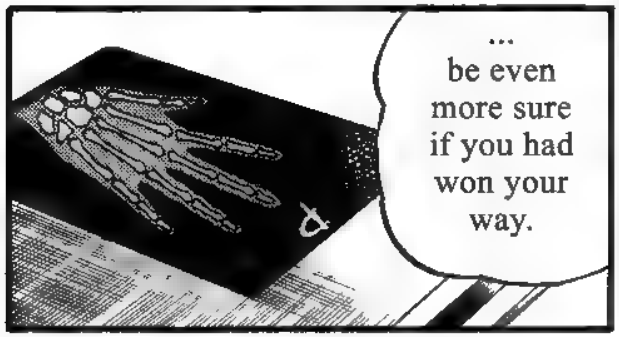
Lady Luck ...
... will laugh as you fall.
I can't believe this...
Why ...?
.....
Obviously no one would purposely leave themselves with these cards.
And a few mistakes ...
By chance ...
.....
How could you havefour4 ...?
RIP

There was nothing wrong with your thinking.
After all ...

Ah ...
Hmph

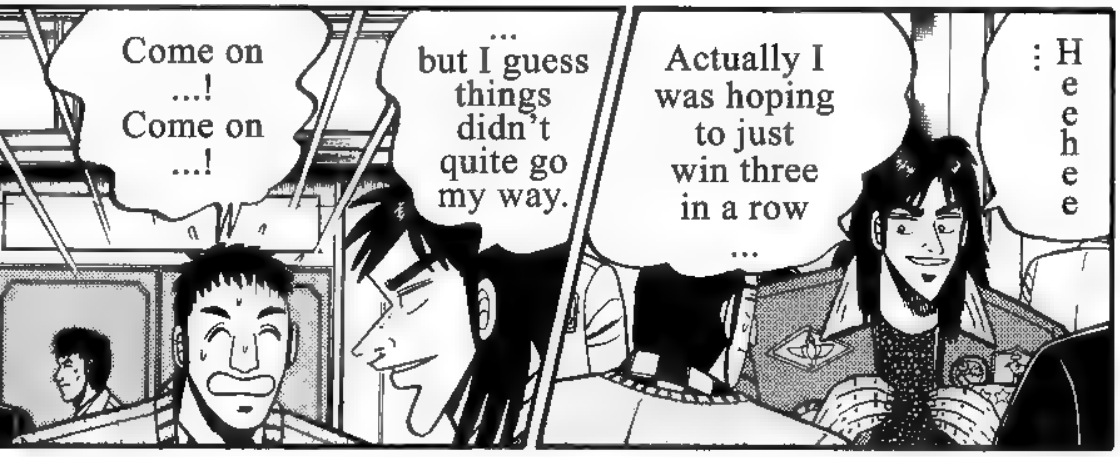
You would ...
When people are right they never stop to question themselves.

But ...
... you let yourself get carried away.

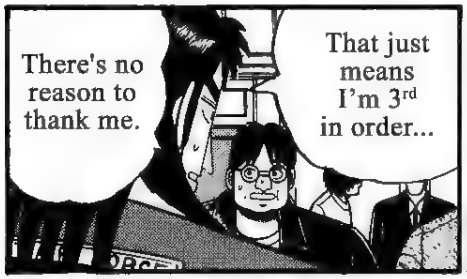

... be even more sure if you had won your way.

... you've got a weakness to exploit!
But as long as you're stuck with a plan ...
End of Chapter 16

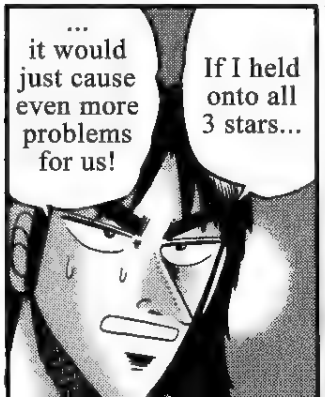
Kaiji Wins 3 and loses 1...



Chapter 17: A Reprieve


There's no reason to thank me.
That just means I'm 3rd in order...

... is mine, no matter who wins it.
The next star ...


... it would just cause even more problems for us!
If I held onto all 3 stars...

We have to stick together now as much as before.
... is our goal. 9 stars for the 3 of us.

... all we need to think about ...
Right now ...

I told you, the three of us are going to get 9 stars.
It doesn't matter who wears them.

Knock it off !
Thank you so much ...!

Kaiji-san ...

It doesn't matter what we do along the way.
Wow ...

Kaiji-san !
For real ... ?
It's fine.

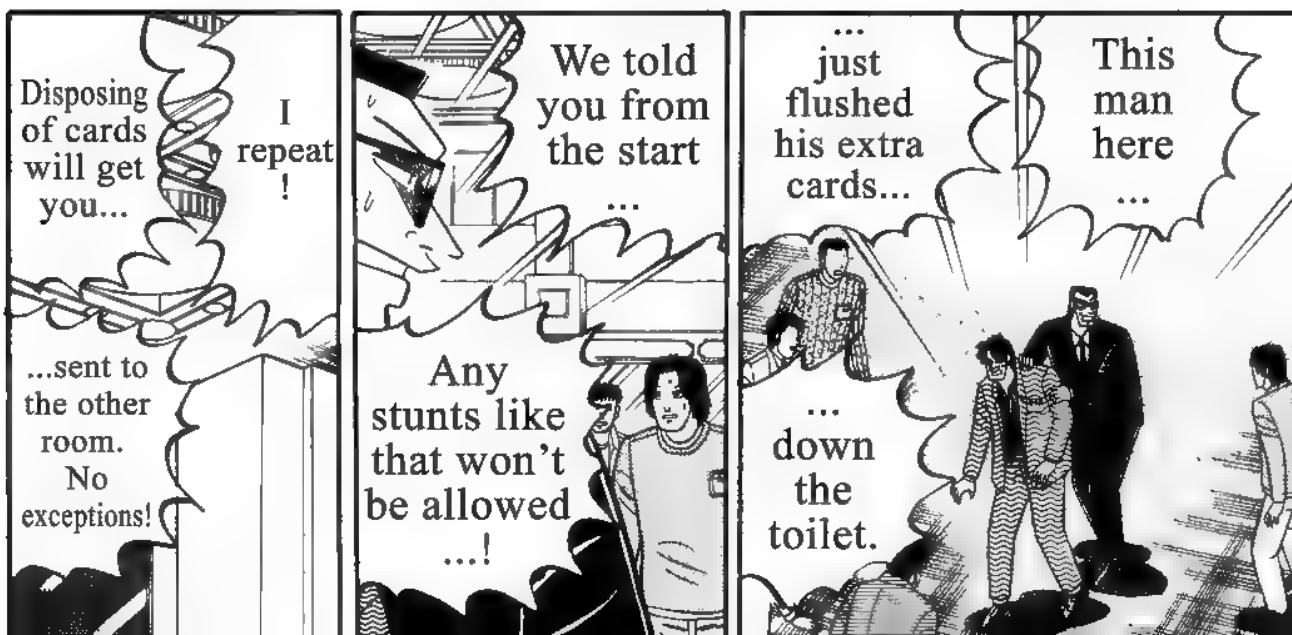
.....
.....
Obviously the two of you wouldn't be very happy about it.
If he tried to dump that responsiblity off on someone else...
... and take the short end of the stick.
... sometimes the leader just has to suck it up ...
So to keep the group together ...
How are we going to turn these 5 stars into 9...?
Forget about it.
More importantly ...
In a way it's all about self-interest.
Huh ...
... who would follow him then?
... I don't know if I like that.
We'll have to buy them ...
We don't have any cards left!
Whaddya mean, how ...
Huh ... ?

Remember :
Interest on the money we're holding ...
... compounds every 10 minutes.
If we use all of that cash ...
... it doesn't matter if our old debt is wiped out ...
... We'll still be stuck with millions of yen in debt.

Plus, this really came home a moment ago ...
... but even if we use all of our money ...
... there's no way we can buy 4 stars.
Instead, we need another strategy to win.
Maybe we can't get 4 stars, but if we can get 2 or 3 ...
Eh ...

But ...
We don't have any more cards...
Huh ... ?
I don't think that will be a problem.
We just need someone to give us a few.
Huh ... ?
One of these fine folks here.
Huh ... ?
How are we going to manage that...?
Just then ...
WAW!

ざわ..ざわ..
...?
ざわ..
What in the world ...?
?
ざわ..
Quiet ... !
He must have done something stupid ...
...?
ざわ..
Why are they taking him away ?
He's still got 3 ...
☆☆☆
ざわ..

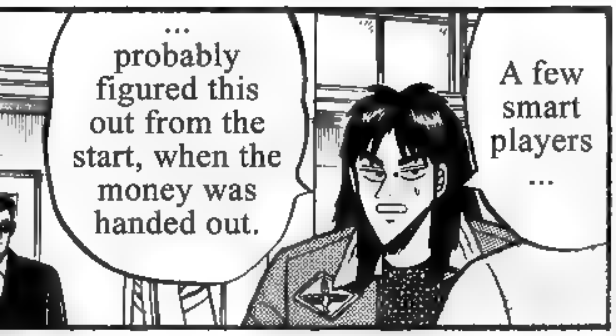

Disposing of cards will get you...
I repeat !
...sent to the other room. No exceptions!
We told you from the start ...
Any stunts like that won't be allowed ...!
... just flushed his extra cards...
This man here ...
... down the toilet.

...
you will be punished!
Disposing of cards is not allowed!
The moment we discover you...
Got it ...!?
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ざわ・
They won't let us dispose of cards.
That means ...
See? You have to use your own cards.
This is terrible. I knew it!
Kaiji-san ...!
Huh ...?
You're not being serious, are you ...?
Come on.
We can't get anyone to give us cards either ...!
SEOUL
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

He could've just given his cards to somebody else.
Nothing more and nothing less.
The only reason that happened is because that guy is a doofus.
That little show ...?
That whole incident back there...
Aren't you listening ...?
He could have just given them away.
There's plenty of people like us onboard who need those cards.
...he shouldn't have tossed them.
If he was worried about his remaining cards...
... "transferring."
This would be ...
Not "disposing."
... "disposing" of cards !
We can't do that! That would still be...
Haven't the three of us already traded cards back and forth ...?
It's simple ...
Do you need proof ...?
No way ...
They don't care if you transfer.

...
out on the floor, they haven't noticed what we're doing?
Do you think, with all the Blacksuits ...

We've traded stars as well.
Ah ...


...
probably figured this out from the start, when the money was handed out.
A few smart players ...

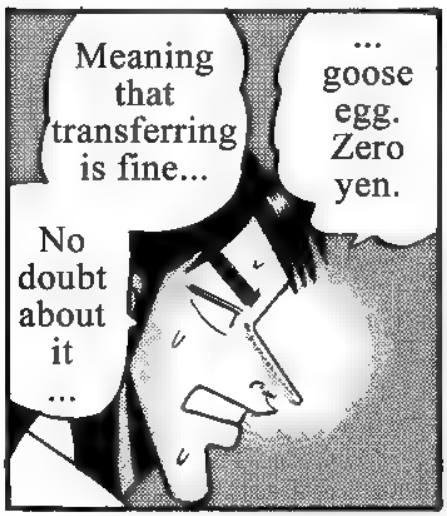
They don't care ...!
Which means ...

We did it right here, out in the open, on the floor.
It's not like we hid in the shadows and traded secretly.
Obviously, they saw what we were doing...!

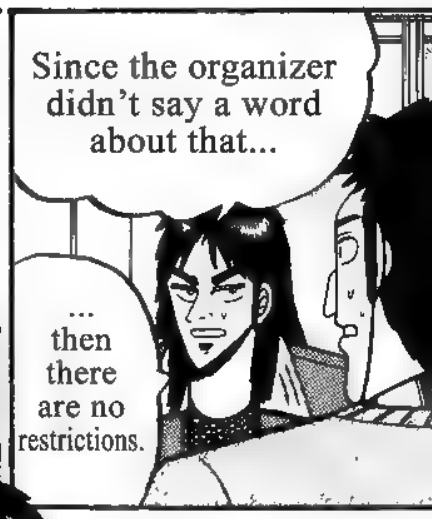
...
but we sure can "transfer" them!
We can't "dispose" of cards ...

There's still obviously one problem that's going to come up...
What price to sell at...and what price to buy...

It's like they're telling us to buy and sell.
I mean, everyone here is holding a wad of cash.
But ...


Meaning that transferring is fine...
... goose egg. Zero yen.
No doubt about it ...

10 mil. yen or 10 thousand ...
Go as high or as little as you like.
Or if we take it to the extreme...


Since the organizer didn't say a word about that...
... then there are no restrictions.

I think I'm kinda getting it ...
Huh ...

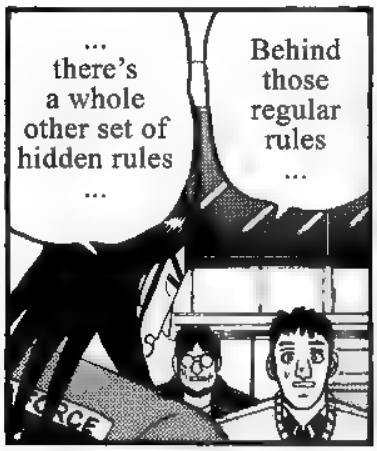
... they were giving us the go ahead to transfer as well.
The moment they gave us the green light to sell ...

.....

Or, if we want to be really precise about it ...
... it's a game of perception.
... a game of chance ... But really it's a thinking man's game ...
"Limited Janken" might look like ...
... explained the rules to us ...
At the start of the games that man, Tonegawa ...
Yeah ...
Perception ... ?
... to figure it out for ourselvess.
He left us ...
... the bare essentials.
But at best, he only explained ...
... noticing the truth and being mistaken is huge.
But even on this 1 issue, the difference between ...
... that we couldn't transfer cards ...
Just now, Furuhata was under the mistaken impression ...
The rest is up to us... Take the issue of how we use the money ...

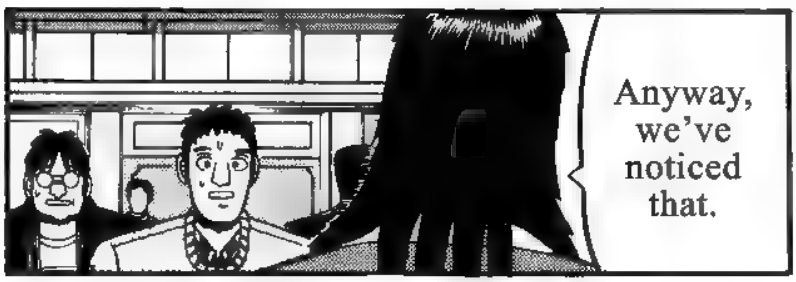
If you don't catch on ...
... you could find yourself on a short trip to hell.

The worst case scenario ...
... is like the guy from before.


Behind those regular rules ...
... there's a whole other set of hidden rules ...

It's downright treacherous.

This Limited Janken ...
...is hardly a straightforward game.
It's way more complicated than it looks ...


Anyway, we've noticed that.

... a hidden meaning to the game.
Whether we sink or swim as players depends on ...
... whether or not we notice that hidden meaning.

In other words ...
... we discovered 1 of those hidden rules.

When we formed our group ...
... we traded cards and stars without thinking about it.

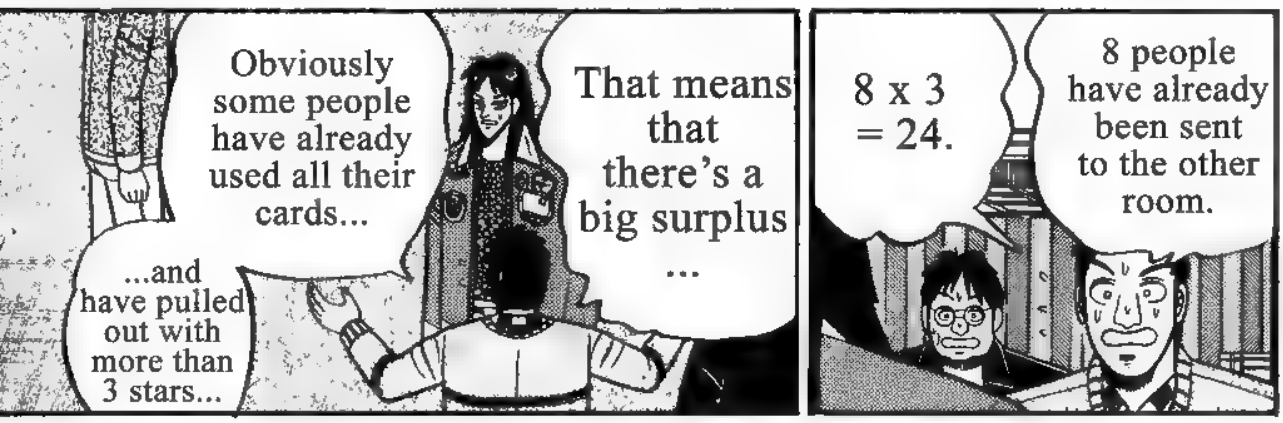
In fact, we might be the first to do that kind of thing ...
And we'll be able to get all the extra cards we want.
We can rake in the cards now.
... still haven't realized.
That's a rule that a lot of people on this floor...
Ah ...
First off, let's collect some cards.
... we need to cover our bases.
Before we can think about winning ...
Then we'll be stuck with them!
What if we can't use all the cards ?
Huh ... ?
We can't just go collecting cards willy-nilly ...
But ...
Huh ... ?
Seriously ... are you 2 stupid!?
ARGGHH!
.....
Yeah ...
We don't want too many ...

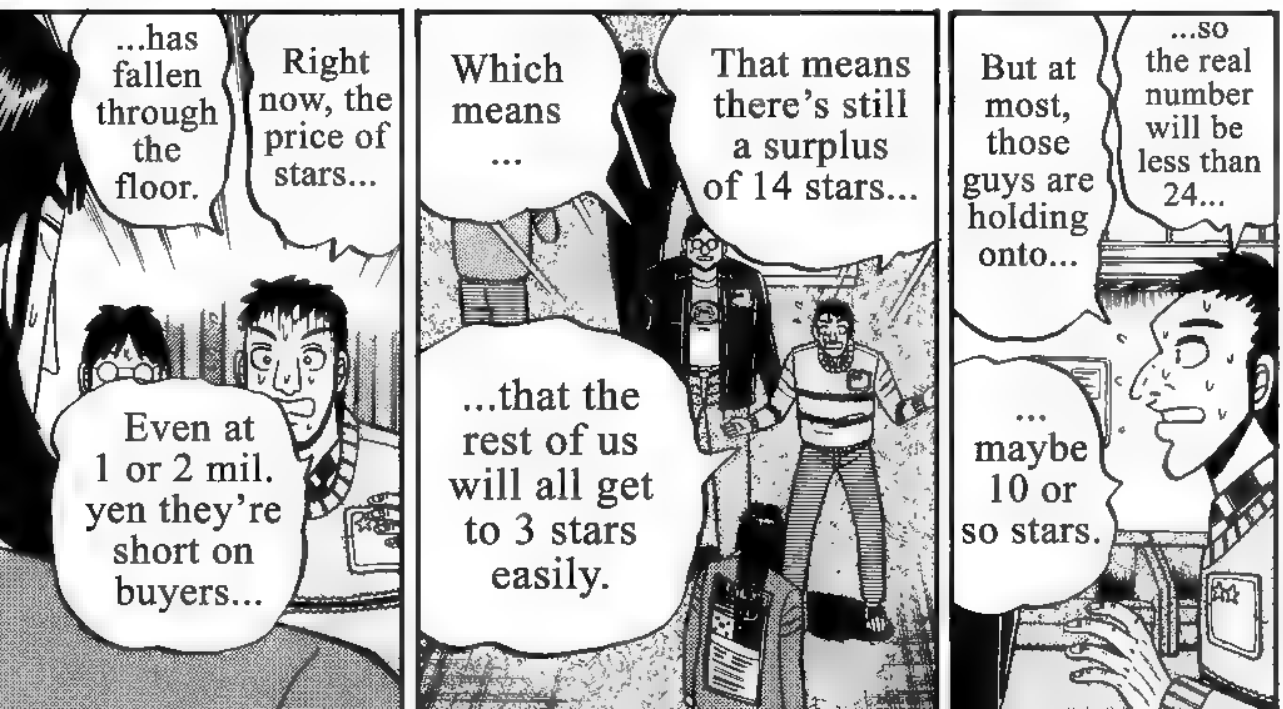
It's simple ...
Huh ... ?
As a group we can get rid of as many cards as we like, all by ourselves ...!
... but we're a group now !
Maybe if we were playing alone that would be a problem ...
Getting rid of extra cards is the easy part ...!
We just play draws against each other.
Ahh ...
It was a tough price to pay, but I already learned that lesson for myself.
... in order to get rid of cards.
And I can tell you that the organizers don't care if we pull this "draw" stunt ...
It's fine ...
Ahh ... !

Go scrape up as many cards as you can.
Go nuts ...
Ah ... Okay ...
There's no such thing as us having too many cards.
... So you see ?
And so ...
Okay ... !
Scramble ... !
...in preparation for a match they aren't even having.
...asking players with extra cards to hand them over...
The three split up to gather cards ...
Kaiji-san ... !
A new fact was about to upset the very foundations of the game ...!
Unconcerned with Kaiji's scheming ...
...the drama continued to unfold across the floor.
However ...

They said we don't need to worry anymore ...
.....
What do you want ...?
What is it ...?
Listen ...
?
Pant Pant
The point is ...
Just tell me what you're trying to say ...
Huh ... ?
... that we were crazy, and going about it all wrong ...
... that we're missing the point ...
... we're all going to be saved!

They said everyone on the floor now is going to be saved.
Moron!!
All of us...?
Yeah...
You're listening to rumors ...!?
They said there's extra stars now.


That means that there's a big surplus ...
Obviously some people have already used all their cards...
...and have pulled out with more than 3 stars...
8 x 3 = 24.
8 people have already been sent to the other room.


Right now, the price of stars...
...has fallen through the floor.
Even at 1 or 2 mil. yen they're short on buyers...
That means there's still a surplus of 14 stars...
Which means ...
...that the rest of us will all get to 3 stars easily.
But at most, those guys are holding onto...
...so the real number will be less than 24...
... maybe 10 or so stars.

Could this ship really let us off so easy ...?

The facts are obvious ...

End of Chapter 17

Could this ship really let us off that easy...?
"Everyone on the floor now is going to be saved"...
It's true that there's a surplus of stars now...
But ...
It seems impossible ...
.....
Kaiji -san ...
And if there's a surplus of stars...
Are you crazy...!?
Hold up ...!
Let's buy now, while we can ...
What should we do ...?
We'll all be saved!?

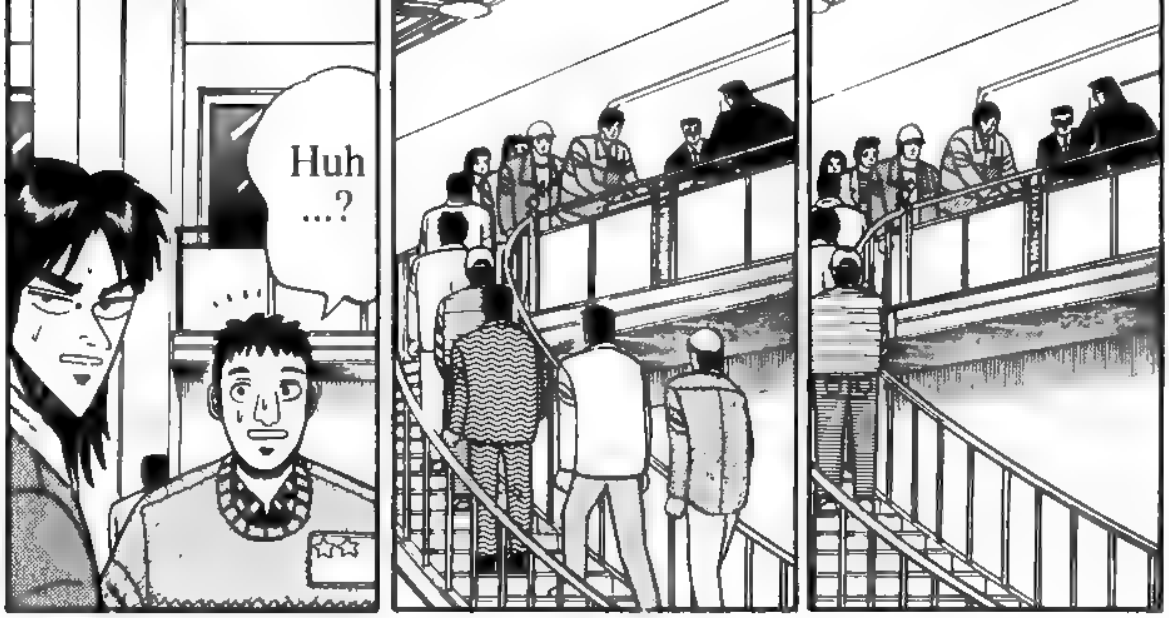
Chapter 18: Catastrophe

If we wait until time's almost up they'll be happy to get rid of them.
After the matches are over, what are they gonna do with paper stars?

……
PSST!

…?

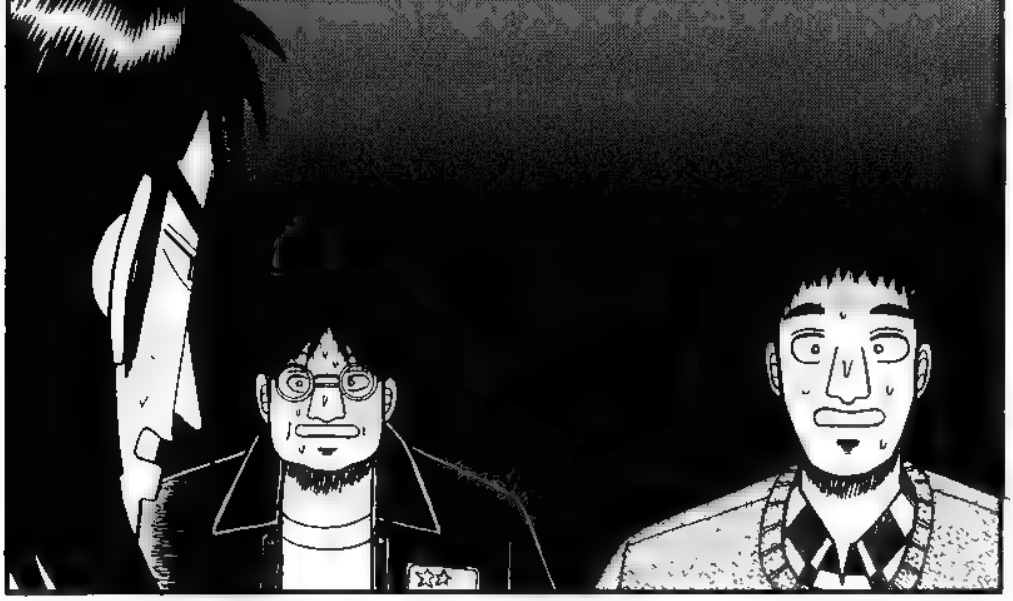
Ahh ...!
They're going up those stairs...
Huh ...?
What's going on up there ...?
Done ...?
They're done now.
...so I guess you might not have noticed ...
Well...up until now there weren't so many of them...
Haven't you noticed ...?
...pay off the interest they've racked up...
Maybe they're sittin' real pretty...
...they head upstairs to check the time...
...and they've used up all their cards...
Once they've got 3 stars...
.....
...second floor waiting room or somewhere.
... in the ...


Huh ...?

Ah ...!
What's all the sudden commotion ...?

Ngh ...

We've got no time...!
Buy the stars...! Now...!
This is bad ...!
Hurry ...!
Huh ...?
Eh ...?
Don't you get it...!?
But why should we hurry ...?
... on our lives ...
They're coming to collect ...
The organizers ...!



They're getting rid of all the extra stars...!

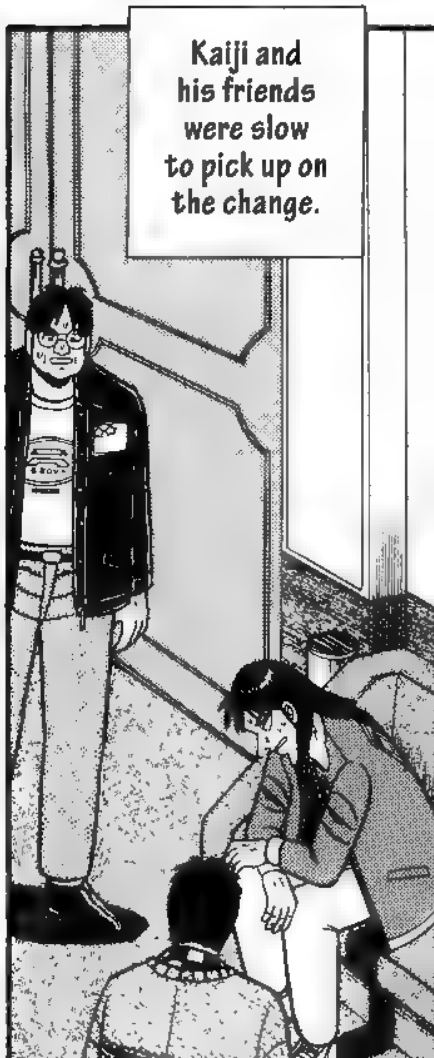
Once the game is over it will be the end for them...
The floor will be sick with people who can't buy any.
Anyone who can't get 3 stars will wind up on a one-way ticket to hell.
The price will shoot through the roof.
Pretty soon there'll be a shortage of stars...!
It'll be impossible to get your hands on 1.
Ahh ...
Right now...that means us ...!
The ship wasn't going to let anyone off easy.
Aiieeee ... !
SCRAMBLE
SCRAMBLE
That's right ...
Just go ...!
Kaiji-san ...
... this is our last chance!
If we're gonna buy stars ...

The stars had increased for a moment ...
...the surplus was just for a fleeting moment.
In the end ...
... allowed to stay around for long.
There was no way those extra stars would be...
Of course, it goes without saying ...
Pretty soon there wouldn't be enough.
... they were going to disappear fast.
... but now that the organizers were buying them up ...
... instead of selling to someone on the floor ...
Obviously, from the players' point of view...
The organizer would buy back their stars for 4 mil.
All the young guys on the floor were only carrying 2or 3 mil. yen.
Which meant the organizers buy ...
... it paid more to sell them to the organizers.
... and the stars disappear.

...
was really a high stakes battle of wits and money.
What looked like a game of chance at first...
Its nature changes ...
... every moment .
Limited Janken.
But now, the tribulations were beginning anew...
... until the sweet promise of salvation for all suddenly appeared ...
Or so it had seemed ...
...time after time just as animals evolve.
The game itself continues to change its appearance...
... in the end they, too, would be weeded out!
And if they couldn't keep up... couldn't evolve...

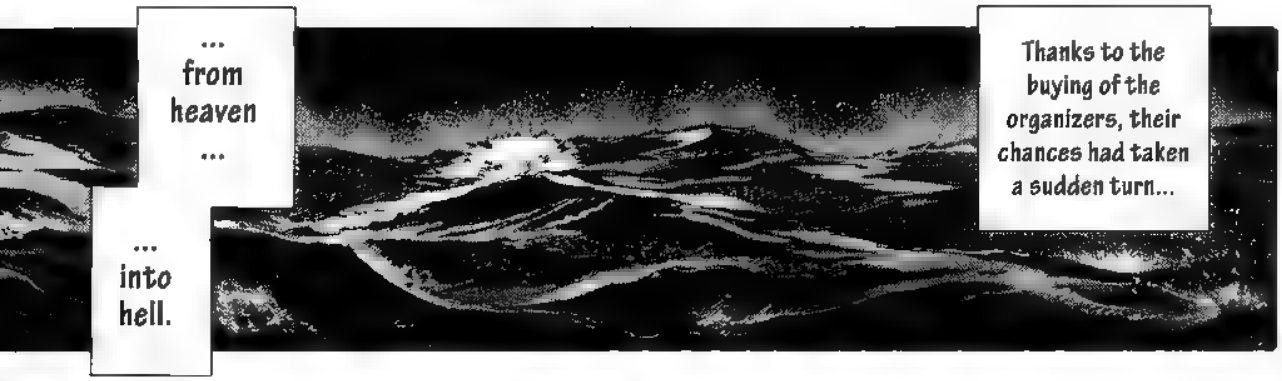
They would be natural selection's victims...!

They didn't buy the stars...
A one in a million chance and they let it slip through their fingers.
For a brief moment the price of stars dropped ...

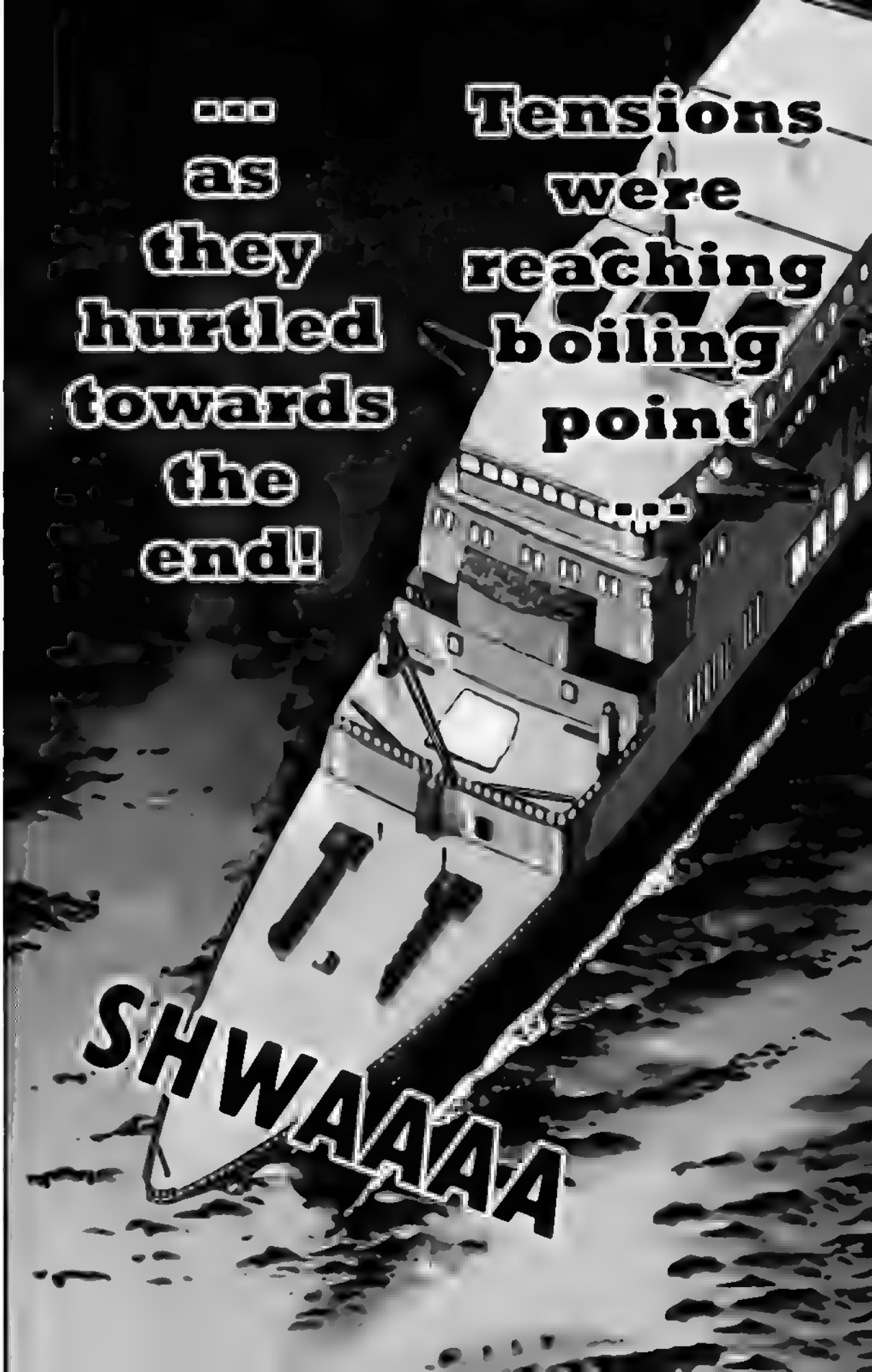

Kaiji and his friends were slow to pick up on the change.

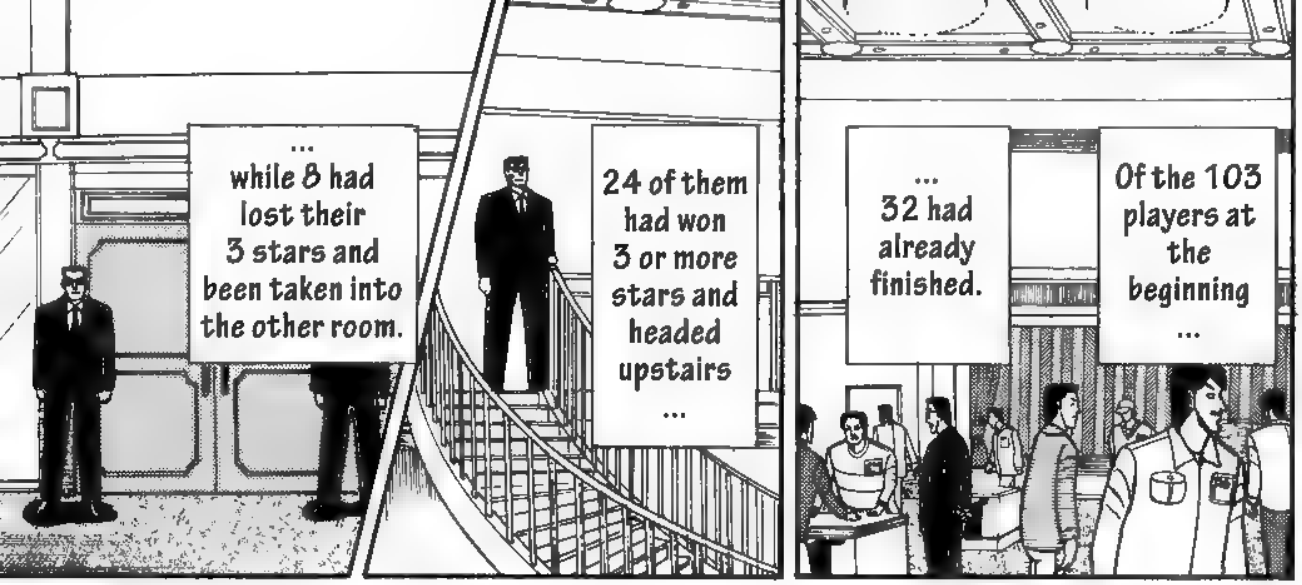
Now, even at 5 mil. yen, it would be difficult to buy one.
Those stars had already disappeared from the floor.
... was only a distant dream.
... and now the price of 2 mil. yen ...

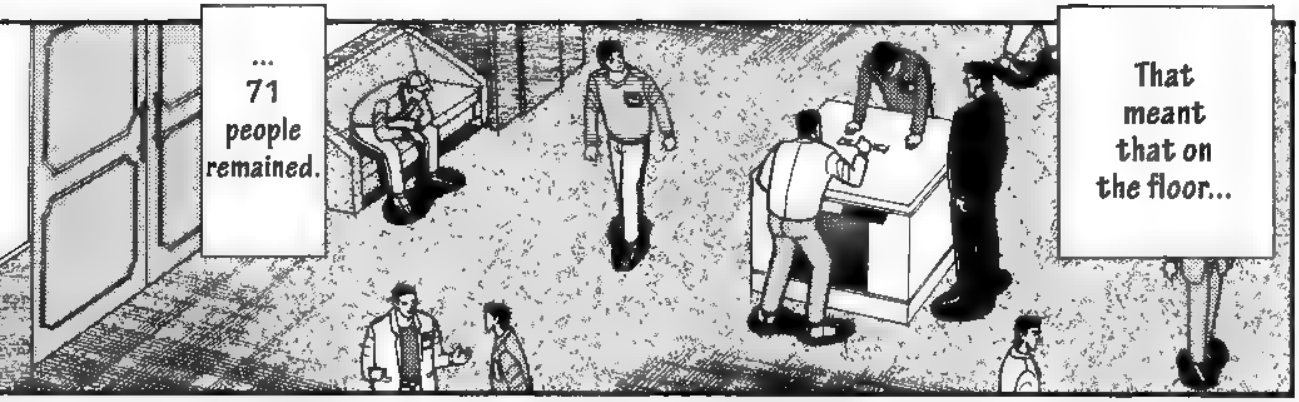
The terms of the game had changed.
It was no longer possible to survive just by buying stars.
...they would only be able to buy 2.
Even with their combined 14 mil. yen...


... from heaven ...
... into hell.
Thanks to the buying of the organizers, their chances had taken a sudden turn...

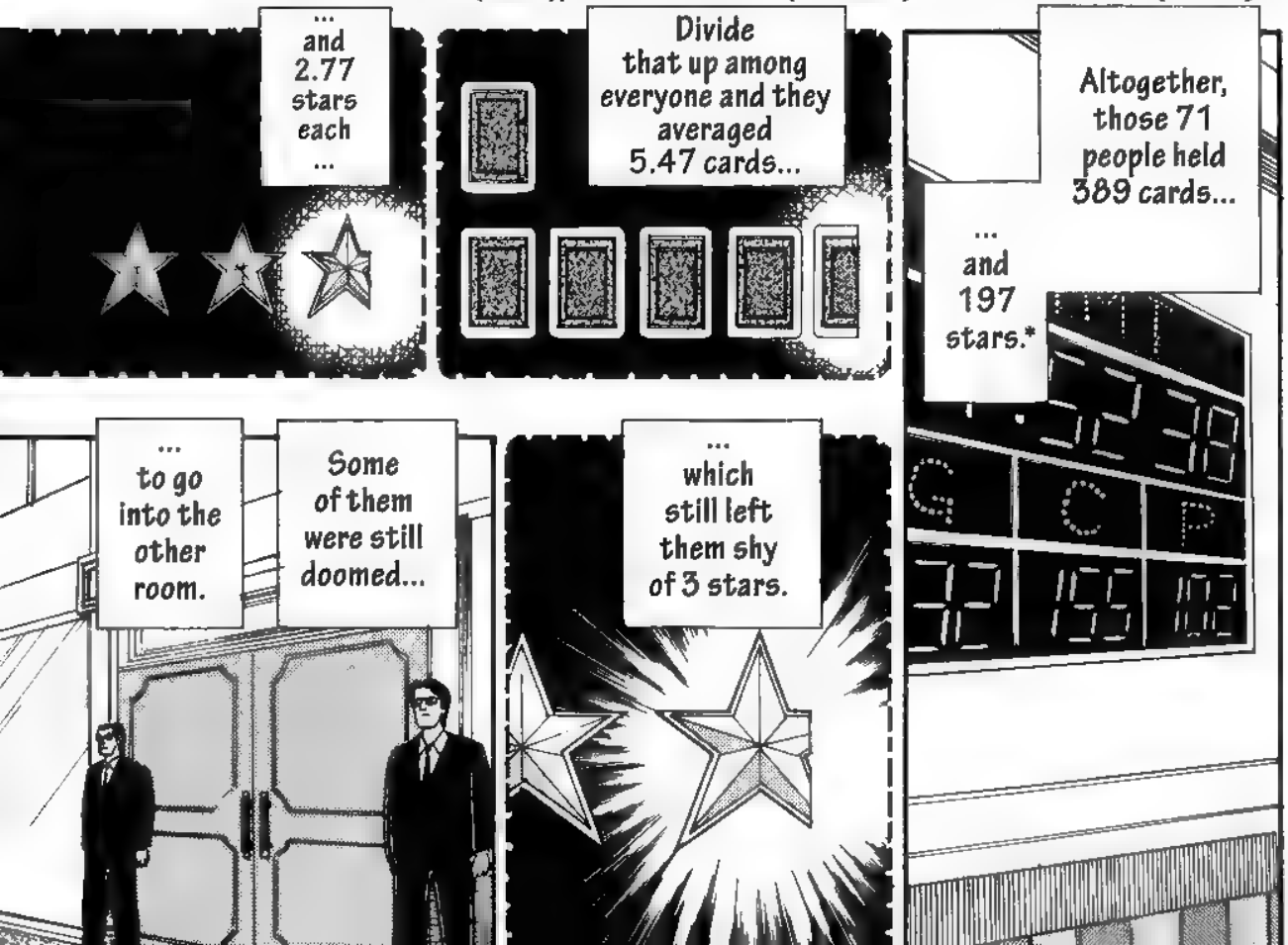
Trapped inside that change ...


Tensions were reaching boiling point...
...as they hurtled towards the end!
SHWAAAA

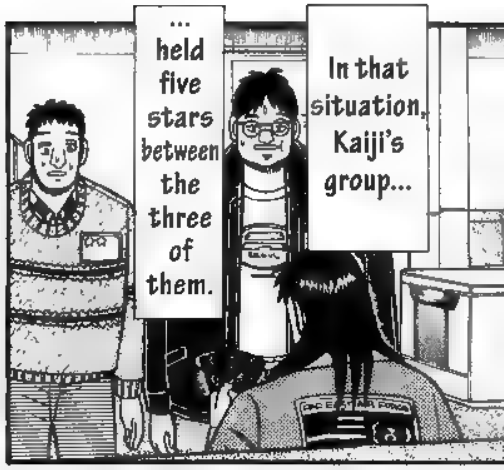

Of the 103 players at the beginning ...
... 32 had already finished.
24 of them had won 3 or more stars and headed upstairs ...
... while 8 had lost their 3 stars and been taken into the other room.



*G STANDS FOR "GU (ROCK)," C FOR "CHOKI (SCISSORS)" AND P FOR "PA (PAPER)."


Altogether, those 71 people held 389 cards...
... and 197 stars.*
Divide that up among everyone and they averaged 5.47 cards...
... and 2.77 stars each ...
... which still left them shy of 3 stars.
Some of them were still doomed...
... to go into the other room.

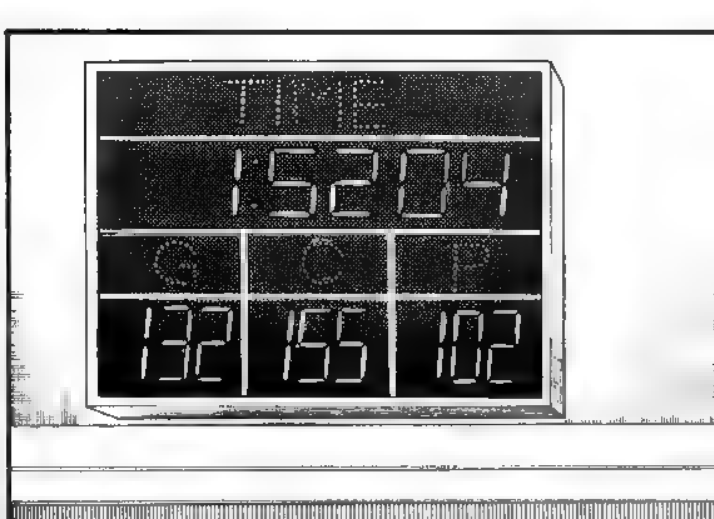
...but before the organizers had begun collecting stars they had managed ...
... to scrounge up a few.
For a moment they had run out of cards...


... held five stars between the three of them.
In that situation, Kaiji's group...

... had collected these 3 cards.

... and Kaiji ...
Ando had gotten one. Furuhata, two ...

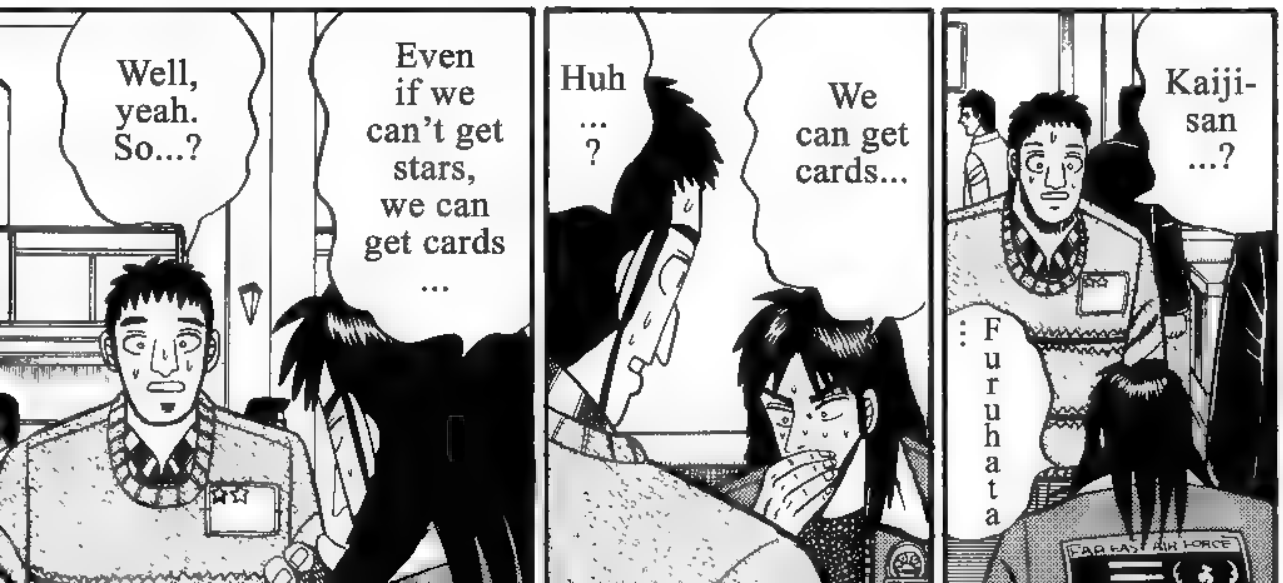
If they couldn't buy stars ...
There was less than two hours left.

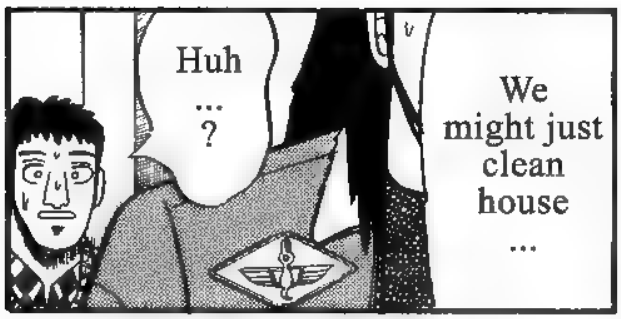

TIME
1:52:04
132
155
102

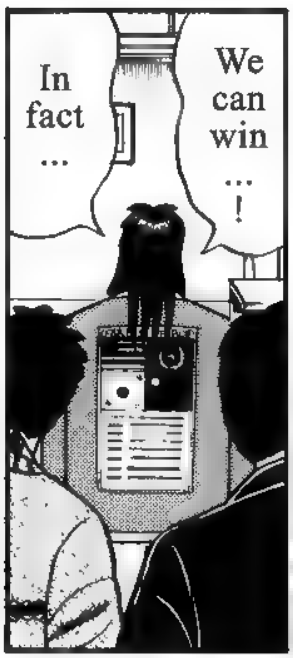
Somehow they would need to use those cards to rack up the wins...
... then they would have to play their hand.

132
155
102

...?
Ah ...


Well, yeah. So...?
Even if we can't get stars, we can get cards ...
Huh ... ?
We can get cards...
Kaiji-san ...?
: Furuhata

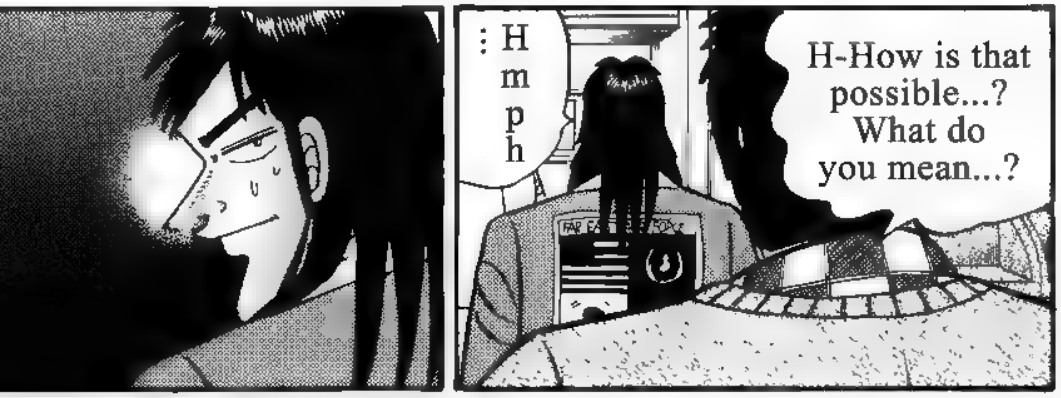




End of Chapter 18

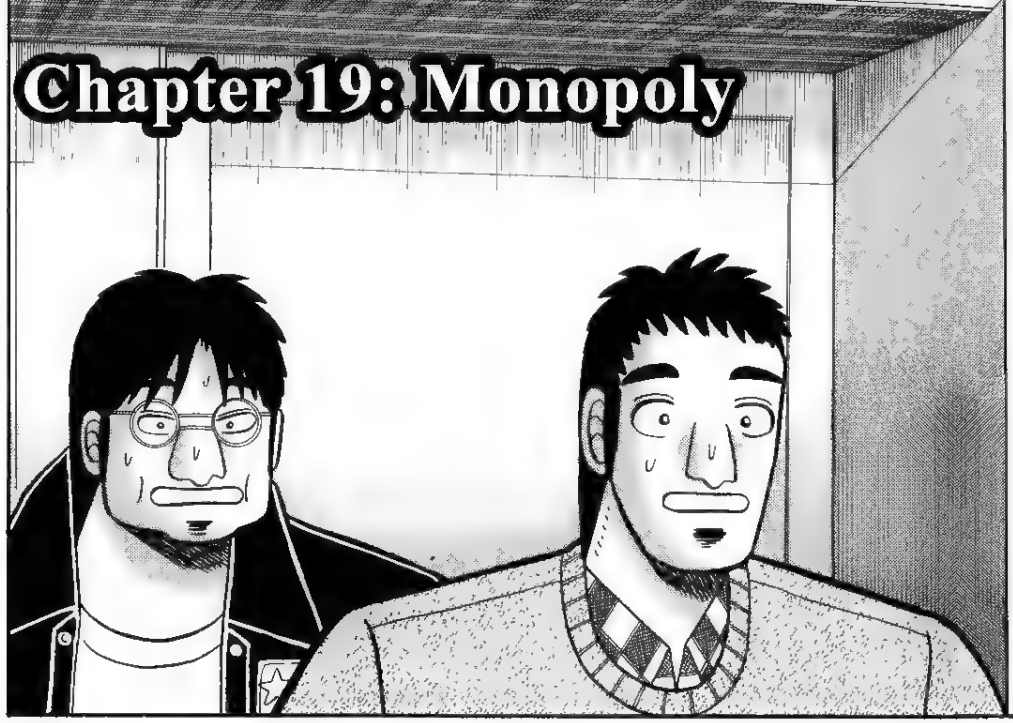
I've got it...!

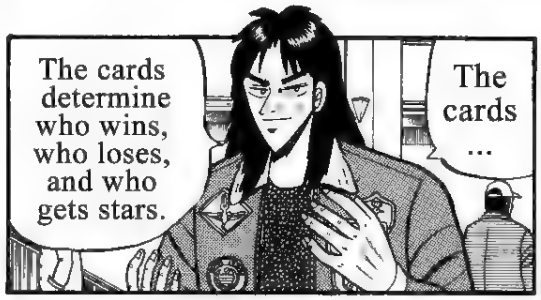
The ultimate strategy...!

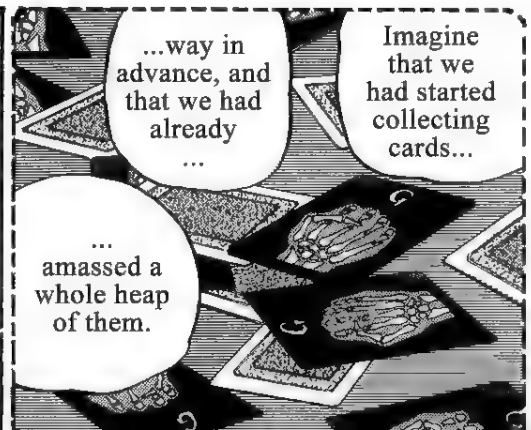


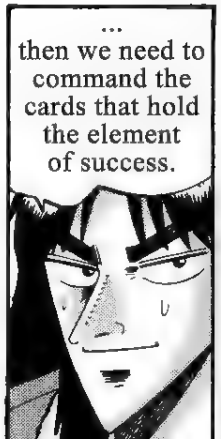
I'm not trying to blow smoke up your butt here ...
I'm just trying to make a straightforward point...
Sorry! Sorry! If I say it all mysterious like that it sounds confusing...
I should have put it another way...
Heh ...
What determines ... whether we win ...?

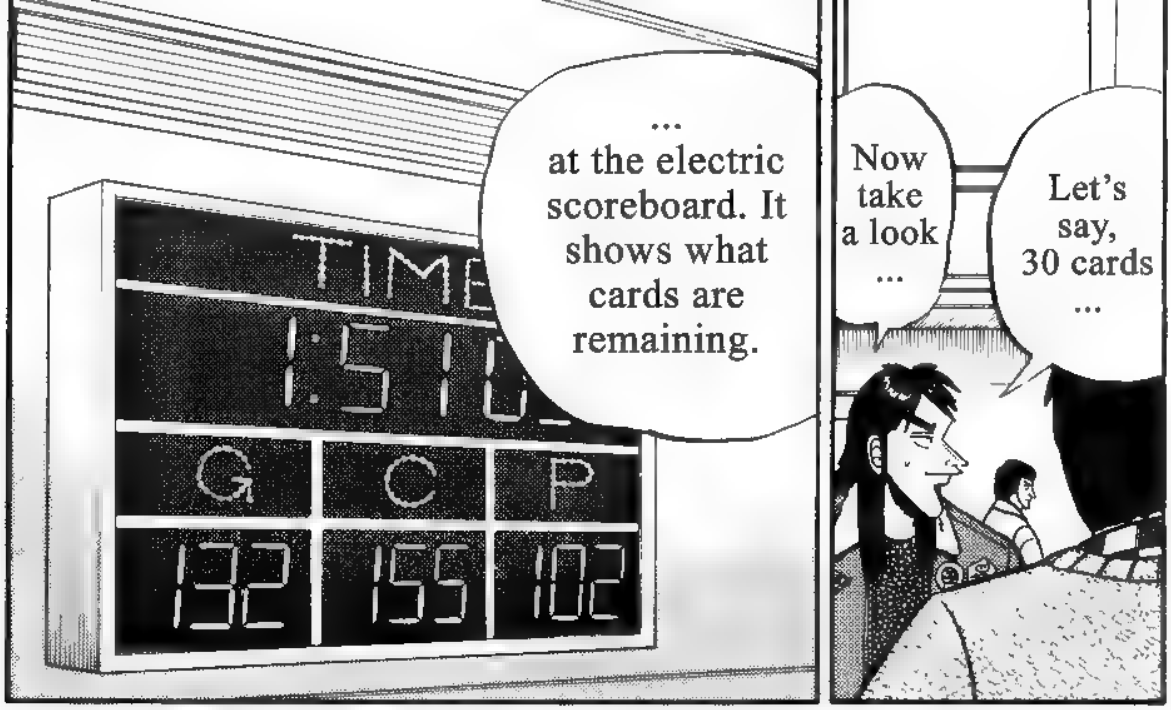
Chapter 19: Monopoly







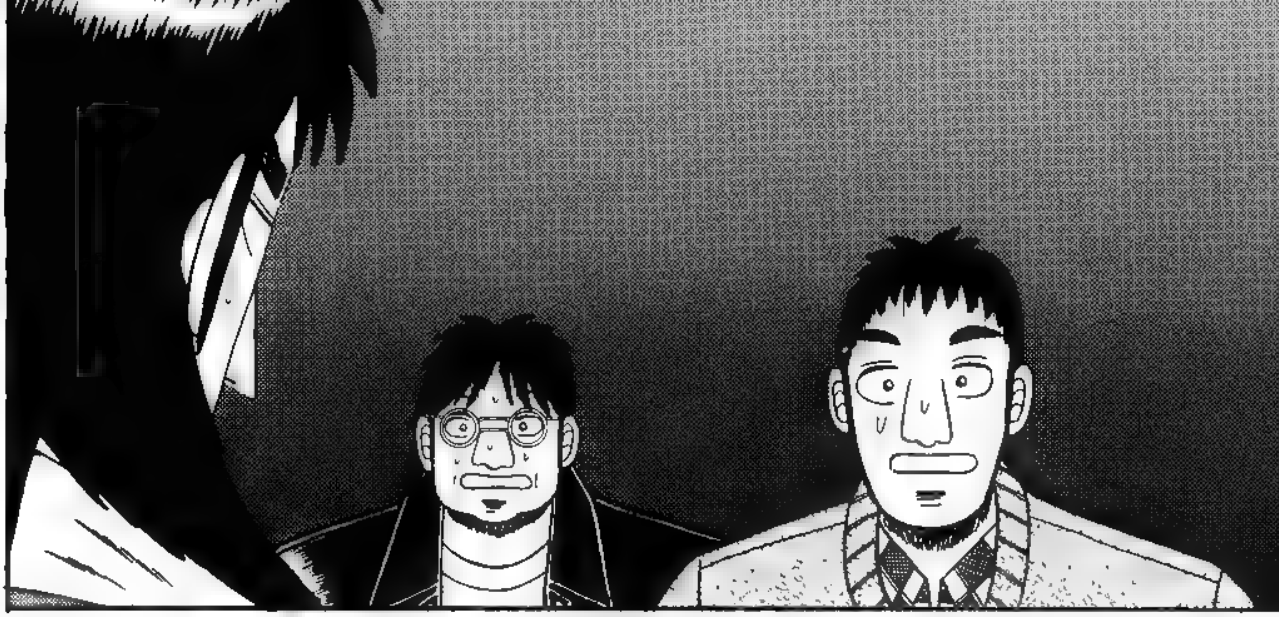



...
at the electric scoreboard. It shows what cards are remaining.
TIME
1:51
G C P
132 155 102
Now take a look ...
Let's say, 30 cards ...

What do I think ...about what?
Huh ... ?
Now what do you think ...?

Hmph ...
It really wouldn't be that much in our favor ...
Sure, there's a few more scissors, which would be in our favor if we played ...
But come on ...
TIME
1:50 58
G C P
132 155 10
The difference doesn't really stand out now ...
I get what you're saying ...
Sure ...

TIME
Imagine that for the next hour and half the cards are played in balance ...
... what if I give you an hour and a half ?
But ...
If you don't stop to think about it that's probably the first impression you get.
AIR FORCE
The last 20 minutes. It's the 11th hour ...
... by 100 cards.
... and rock, paper, and scissors each go down ...
How would you feel about holding 30 rocks then ...?
With 100 cards gone each ...
... we'd be down to the tens.
Now what do you think ...?
And there would be 55 scissors and 2 papers left on the floor ...
... 30 of those would be ours.
Out of the 32 rocks on the electronic scoreboard ...



Hmph

We'd win nearly every match ...!

We... really would clean house!

Ah ...!

Even if it would, we couldn't really rack up 30 wins, or 28 wins and 2 losses.

Of course... that's just an extreme example. It wouldn't really happen that way.

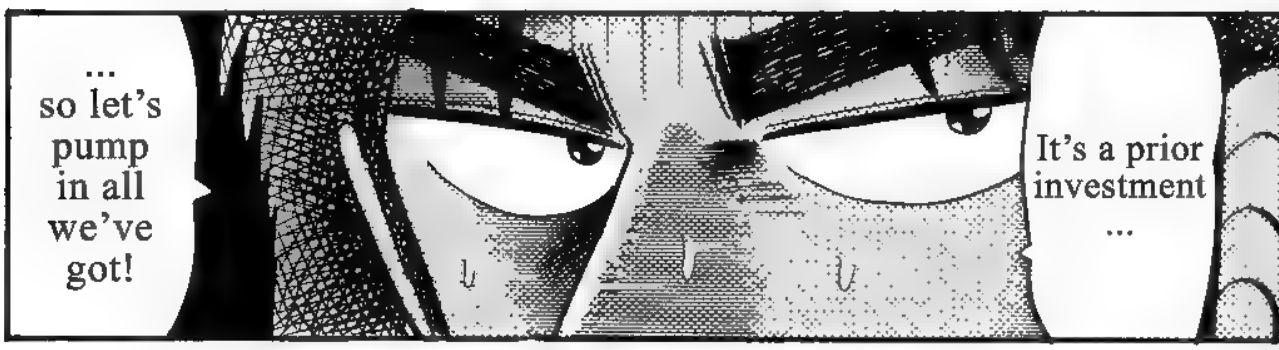
You see ...?

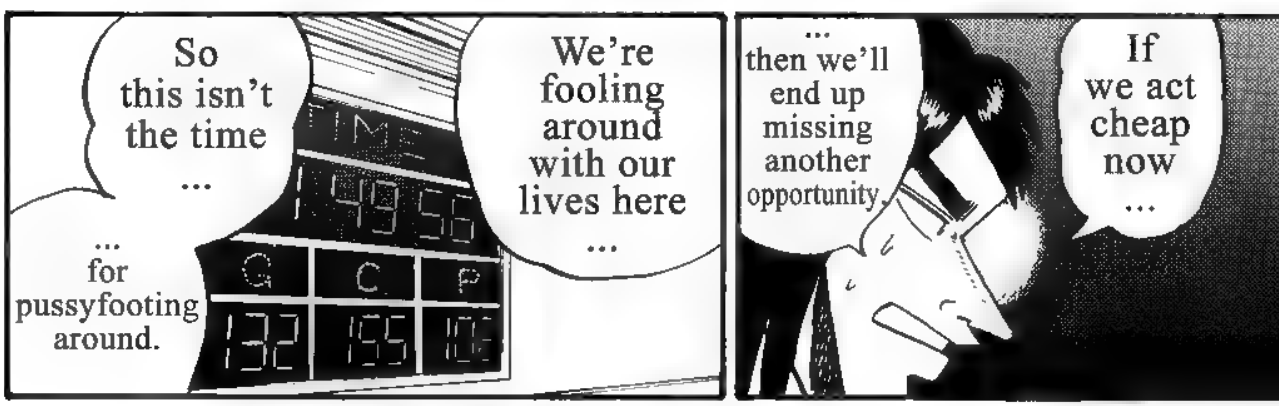
The example is still theoretical ...

There'd no reason for all the people with scissors to mess with us once they knew they were going to lose.

Do you understand Ando ...?
...
Furuhata ...
With enough matches we're guaranteed to pull ahead.
The fundamental principles of my strategy are still the same.
But ...
We're gonna set up something similar.
We're going to scrounge up all the rock cards that we can ...!
It's still not too late for us ...
Obviously, if we're trying to gather that many they won't all come free ...
No such thing as a free lunch ...
That's right ...
30 cards ...?
.....

If we can turn it into a star later ...
... then paying 100 or 200 thousand for 1 rock is cheap.
We use the money ...
The money ...


... so let's pump in all we've got!
It's a prior investment ...


So this isn't the time ...
... for pussyfooting around.
We're fooling around with our lives here ...
... then we'll end up missing another opportunity.
If we act cheap now ...

I got it ... !
... Yes ... !
Do you get it ... ?
.....

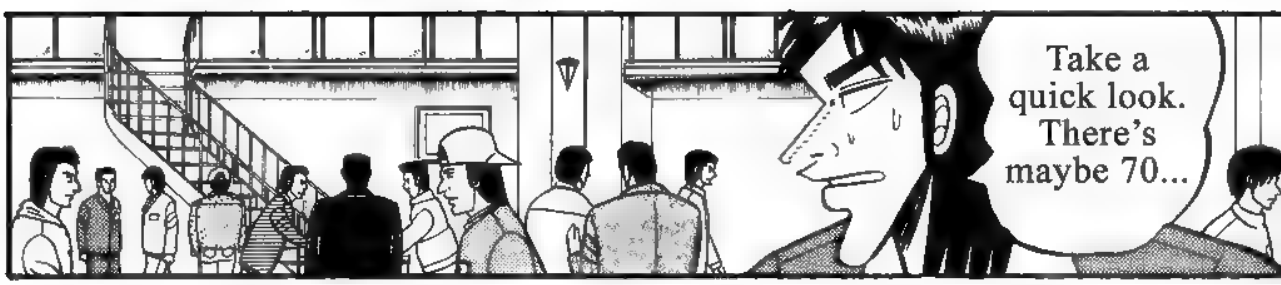
Alright, then ...
Even if we use all of our cash ...
... there's no real reason to regret it later.
After all, our 2 mil isn't gonna buy any stars on its own.
I don't see any objections ...
TIME
1:49 36
G
C
P
131
154
102
PEEK
.....
Hey ...!
SCRAMBLE
SCRAMBLE
Off we go ...!
See you later ...
Alright ... Let's do this ...
Huh ...?
Huh ...?
Where do you think you're going ...?
Hold on ...!

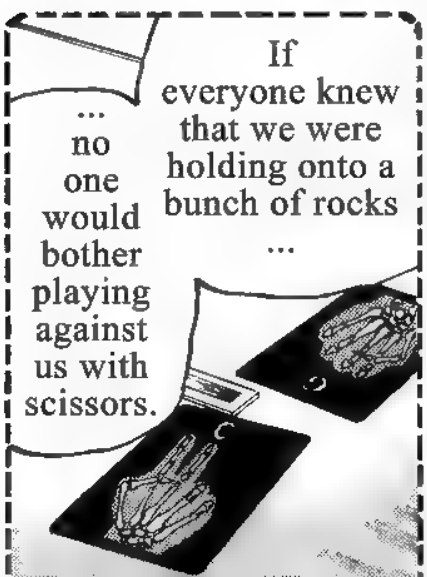
If we but them how will that look!?
Huh ...?

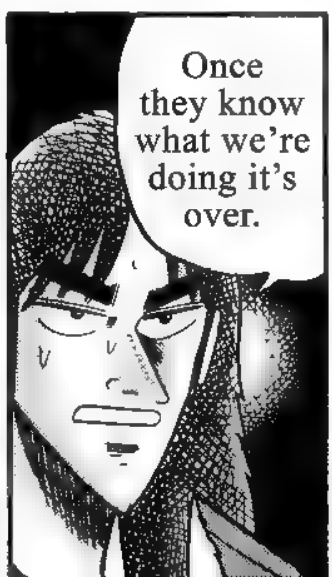
Idiots !
To go buy rocks ...!
Where ... ?

It's not like there's 1 or 2 thousand people out on the floor...
Listen.

Come here ...!
?

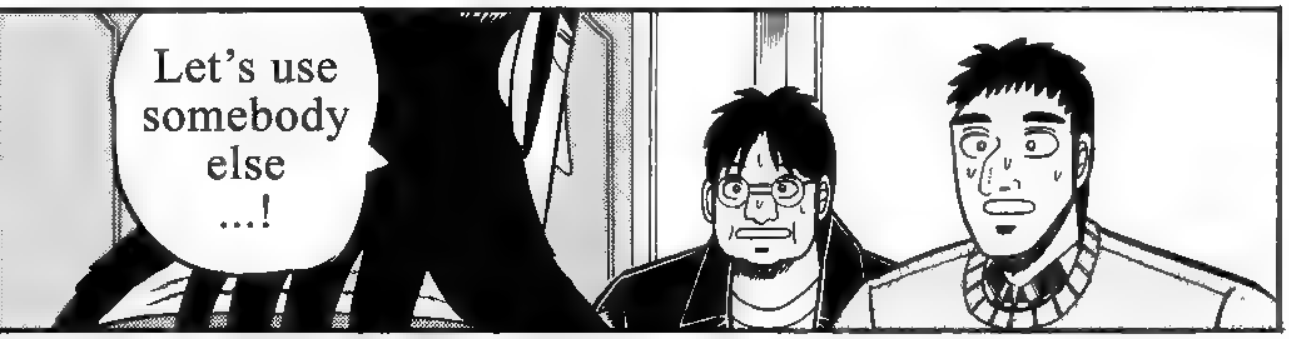

Take a quick look. There's maybe 70...

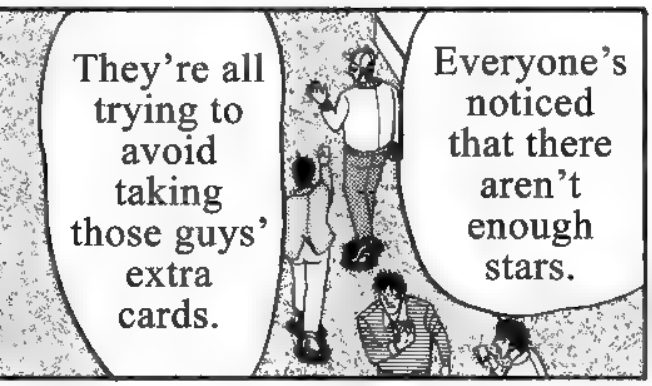

... no one would bother playing against us with scissors.
If everyone knew that we were holding onto a bunch of rocks ...

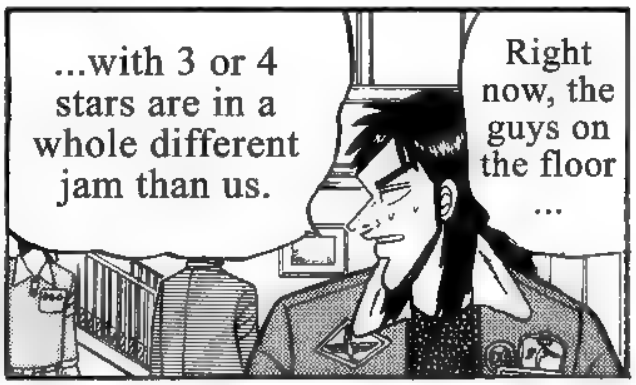

Once they know what we're doing it's over.

... then the jig would be up.
If we started buying up rocks directly ...

We've got the funds ...
: Furuhata
But ...
Ah ...
If that happens, then all the collecting is in vain.


Let's use somebody else ...!


They're all trying to avoid taking those guys' extra cards.
Everyone's noticed that there aren't enough stars.


...with 3 or 4 stars are in a whole different jam than us.
Right now, the guys on the floor ...

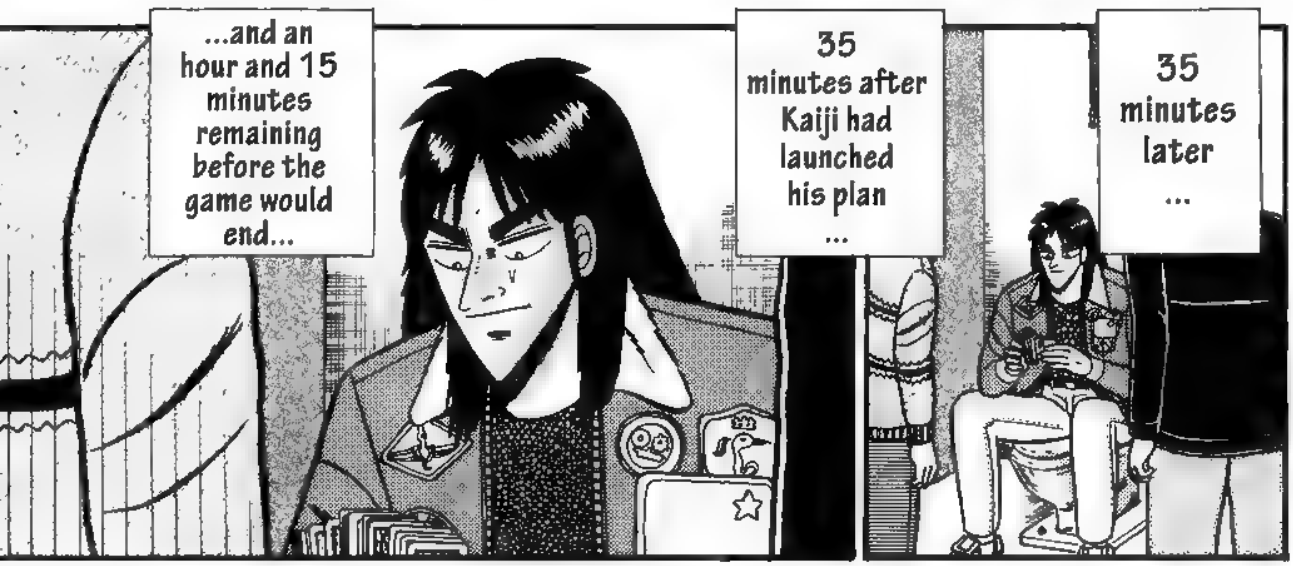
Everyone short on stars is against that ...
... and the number of stars on the floor would drop even lower!

... then the guys would head on upstairs ...
If they took their cards ...

...
with 4 stars alone
...
We can't let them slip away upstairs.
But we need to leave the ones ...
The guys with extra stars have their own problems, too.
They're having trouble giving their cards ...
So ...
...
to collect our rocks.
Set them up as agents ...
...
and bribe them ...
We'll approach the ones with 3 stars ...
...
in other words, the 10 minutes interest on the money they borrowed.
I'm sure the guys with three stars are getting antsy about their "entrance fee" ...
Service with a smile ...
They'll jump at the chance ...
We'll wipe that clean with a cool 2 mil. yen...
...we'll take all of their cards off of their hands ...
If all goes well and they can collect 10 or more rocks each...
... and then pay them off to boot.

Right ... ?
.....
Kaiji's idea to use agents to gather rocks ...
Ah ...
... turned out to be a huge success.
.....
Obviously it sounded great to the agents' ears...
They could grab 2 mil. yen, risk-free...
... and head on upstairs.
What could be better ?
As for Kaiji and his friends ...
... their bribery payed off big.
Thanks to their agents ...
...they were able to stay behind the scenes, entirely hidden, as they collected all the rocks they need.

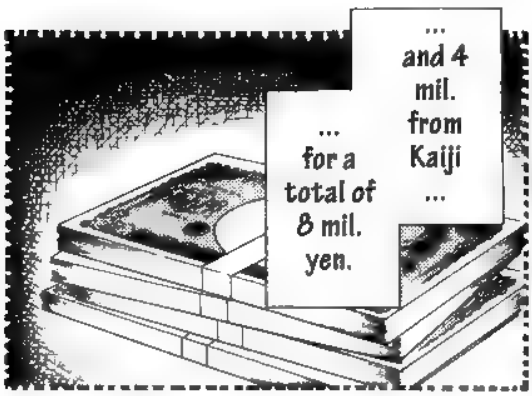
It was the 1 item they couldn't compromise on.
... it was vital that they stayed "behind the scenes."
In order to pull of this buying scheme successfully ...
This was an important point.
... the only people who knew what they had done ...
... the "agents" ...
...once the trio had gathered their rocks ...
To put the icing on the cake ...
All was going as planned.
They were gone from the floor ... ... permanently.
... and disappeared up the stairs.
... took their reward ...

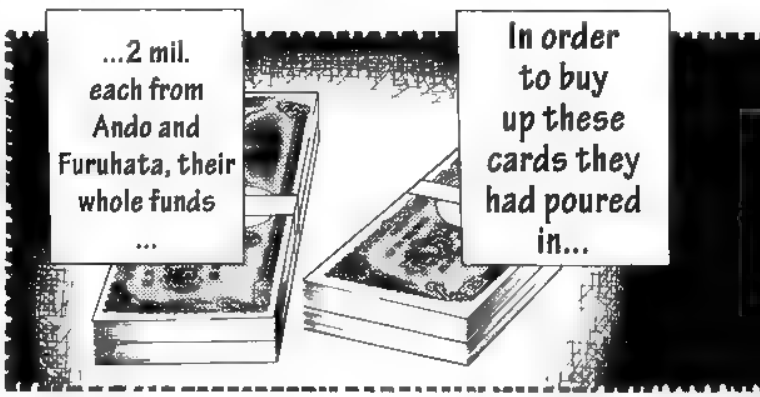

35 minutes later ...
35 minutes after Kaiji had launched his plan ...
...and an hour and 15 minutes remaining before the game would end...

... Kaiji and his friends had already gotten their hands on what they had sought ...
They had entrusted their lives to 1 last strategy ...
... Now they had ammunition ...

30 rocks!!!

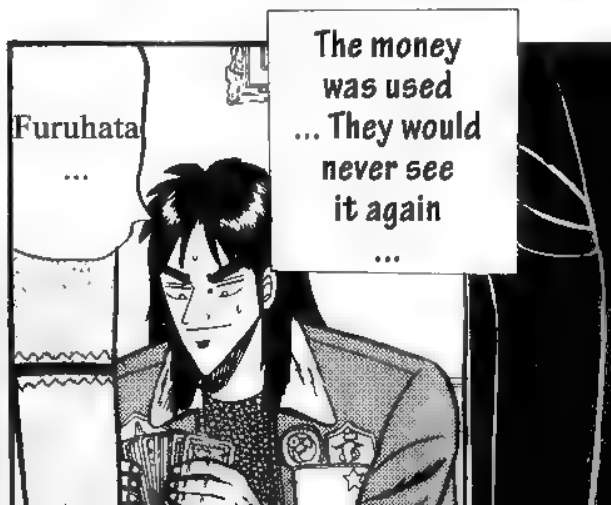
G


... and 4 mil. from Kaiji ...
... for a total of 8 mil. yen.


...2 mil. each from Ando and Furuhata, their whole funds ...
In order to buy up these cards they had poured in...

.....
.....

.....
Ando ...

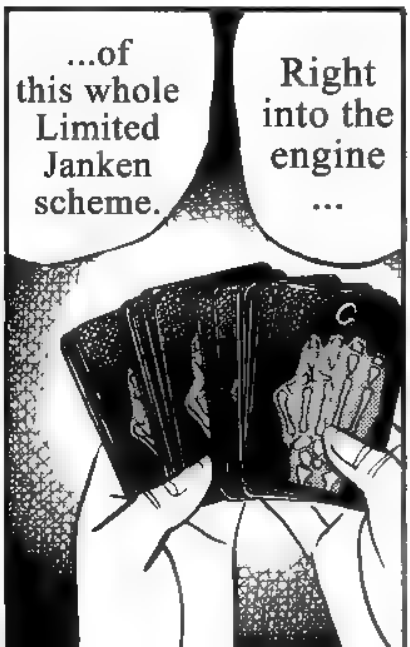

Furuhata ...
The money was used ... They would never see it again ...

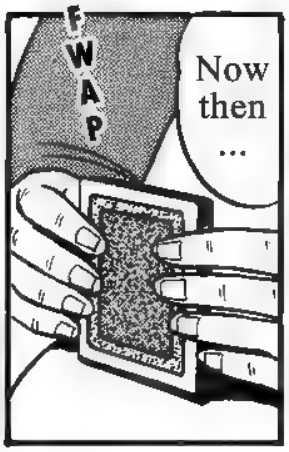
We've got our hands in deep now ...

I feel great now ...

I can feel it shaking ...

We can control the whole set-up ...
We can control it ...
Kaiji-san ...


...of this whole Limited Janken scheme.
Right into the engine ...



The 11th hour is about to begin ...!

End of Chapter 19

...
it's not that we didn't have our chances
...
Thinking back
...

But
...

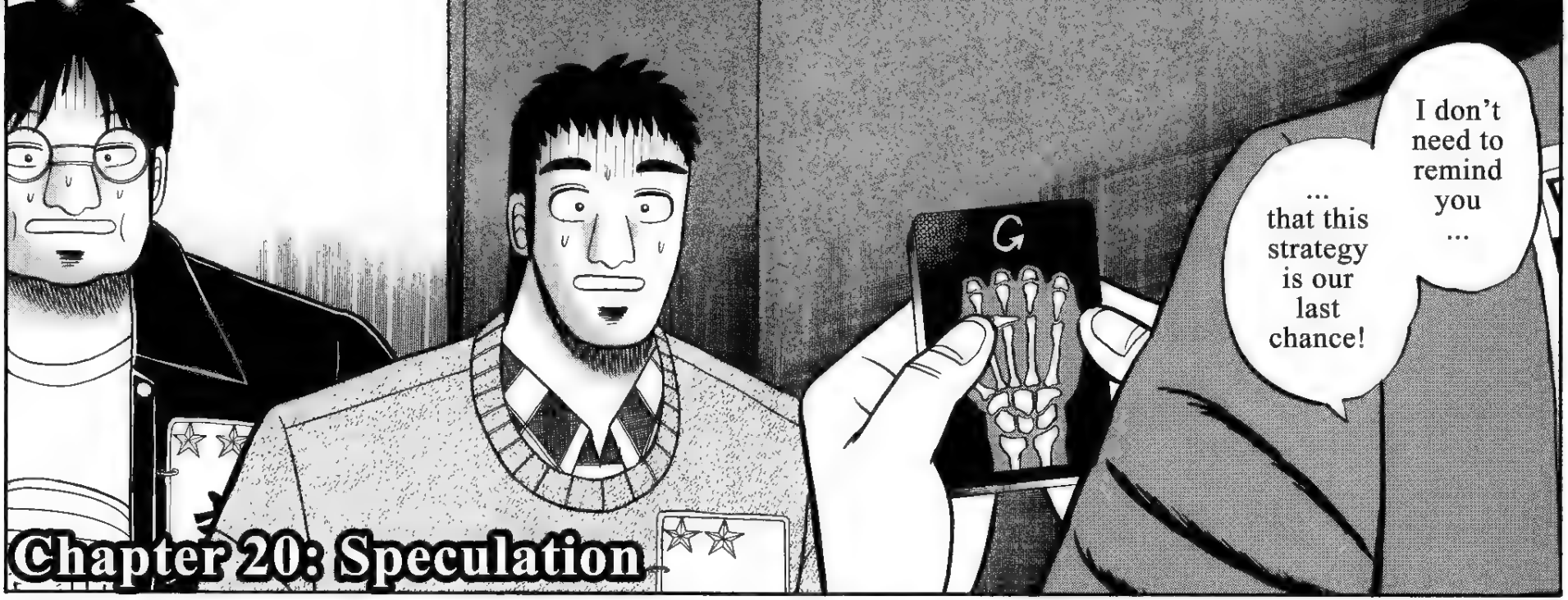
...
3 stars and been off this floor long ago.
If we had handled things better we'd have already had
...

.....
...
slip through our fingers.
Let chance after precious chance
...

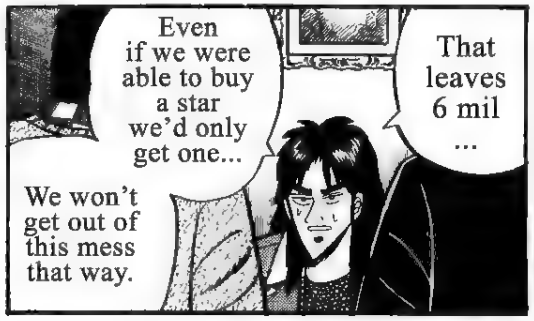
...running around like chickens with our heads cut off.
We were careless
...
We let them slip by
...

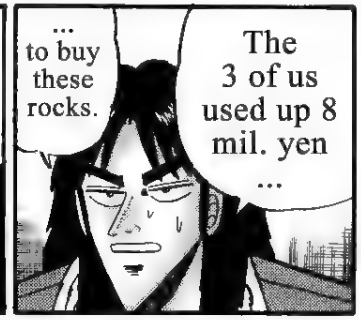
We can't allow any more failures ...!
...

No more
...
.....

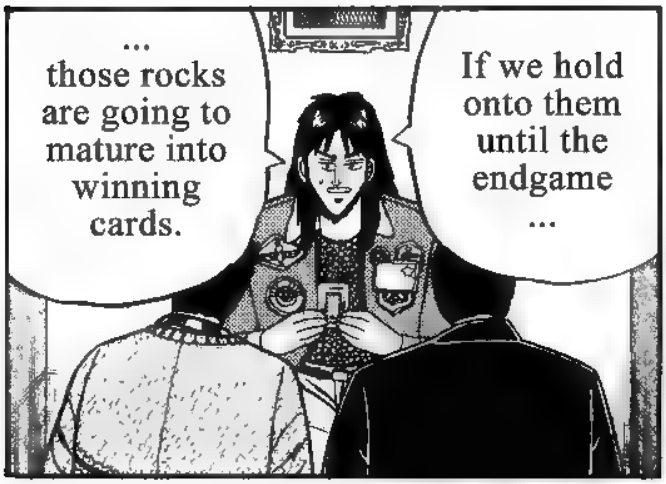


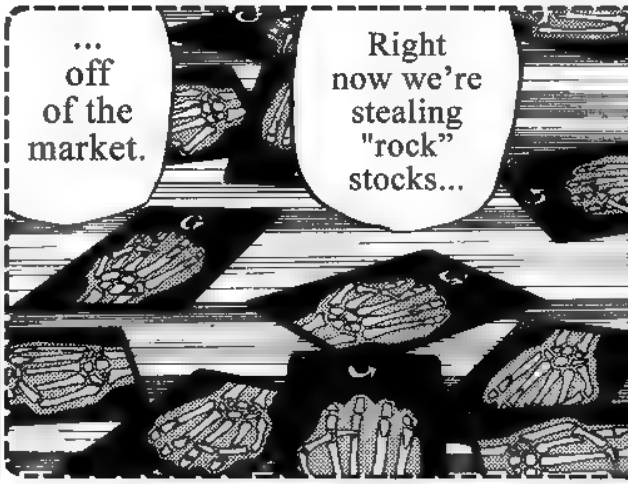
Chapter 20: Speculation

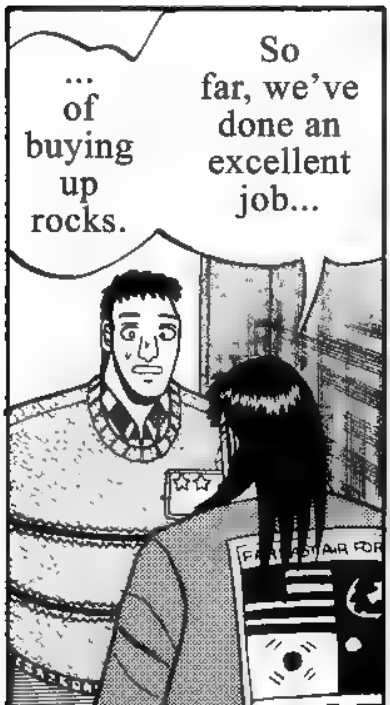




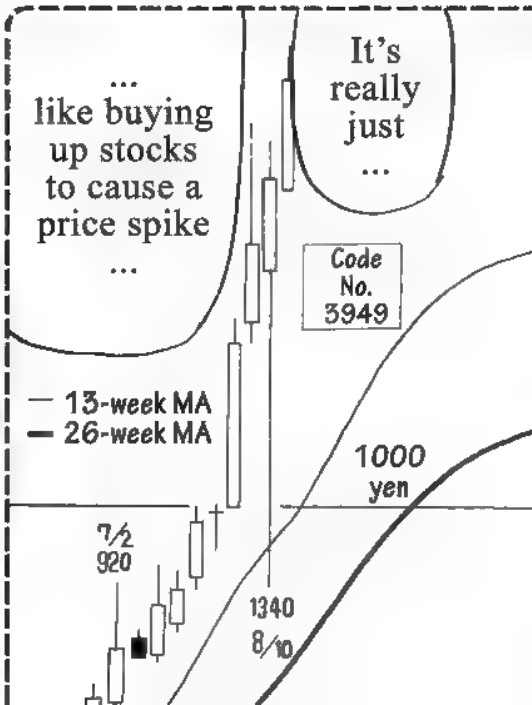
...
similar to stock market speculation
...
It's the same as rigging stocks.

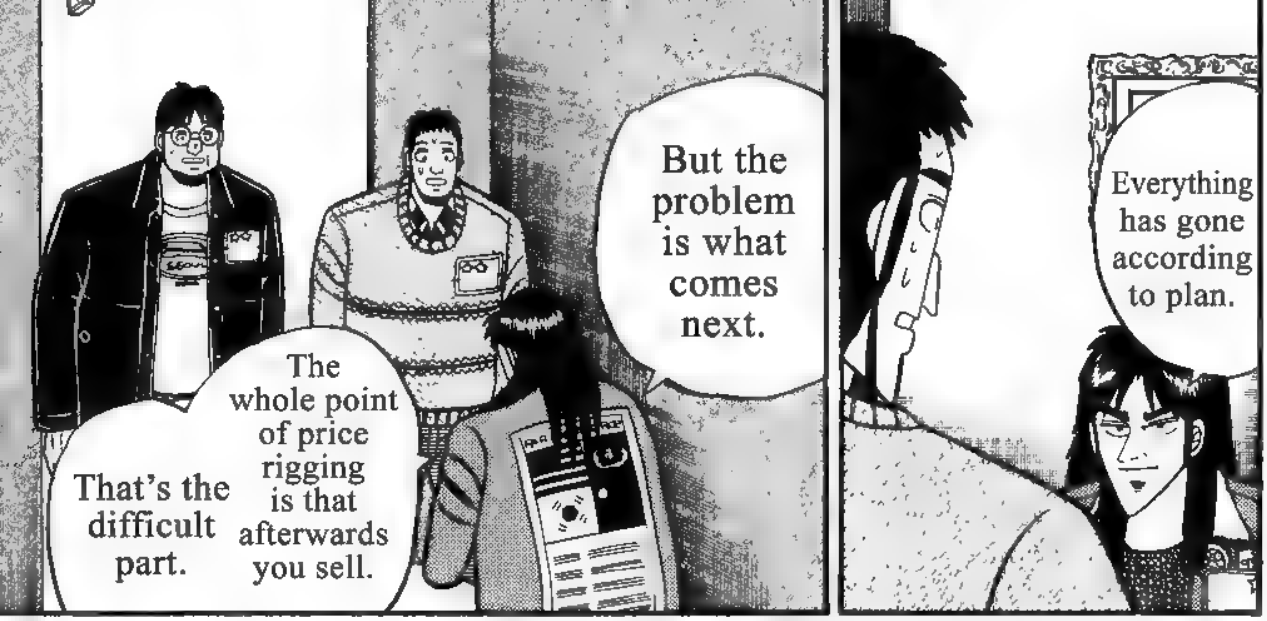

...
those rocks are going to mature into winning cards.
If we hold onto them until the endgame
...

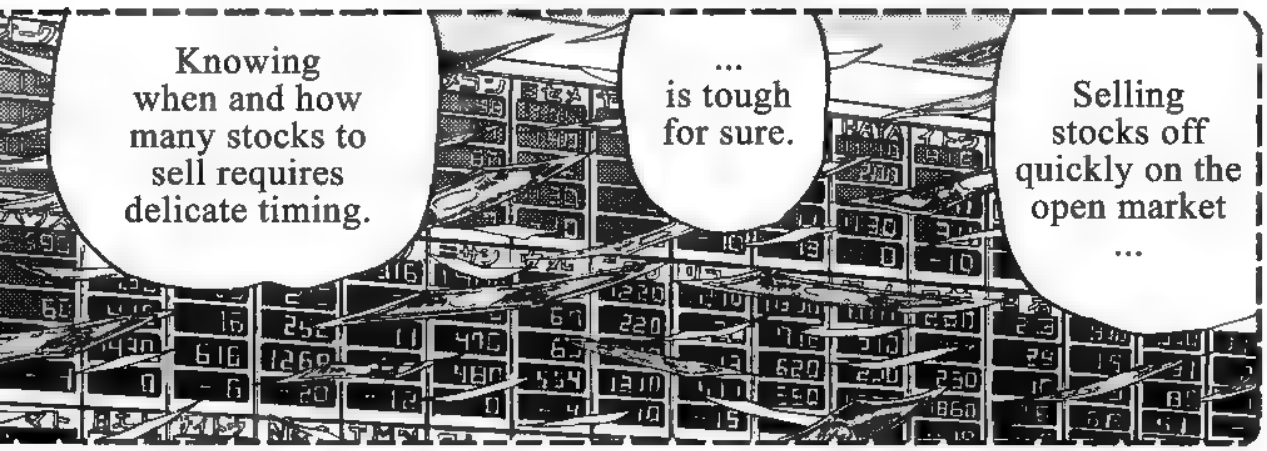

...
off of the market.
Right now we're stealing "rock" stocks...


...
of buying up rocks.
So far, we've done an excellent job...

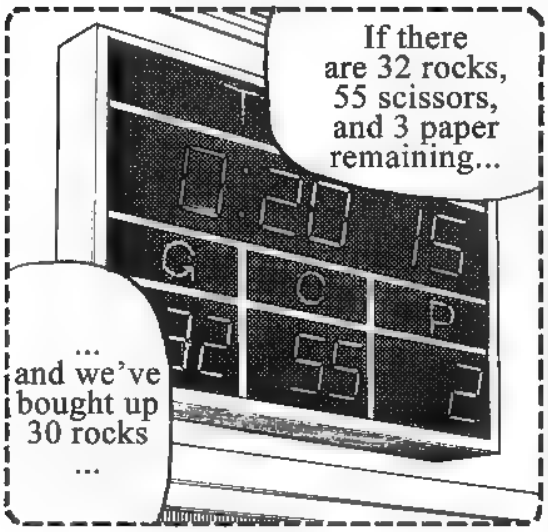
...
exactly like manipulating prices!


...
like buying up stocks to cause a price spike
...
It's really just
...
Code No. 3949
13-week MA
26-week MA
1000 yen
7/2 920
1340 8/10


But the problem is what comes next.
The whole point of price rigging is that afterwards you sell.
That's the difficult part.
Everything has gone according to plan.


Knowing when and how many stocks to sell requires delicate timing.
... is tough for sure.
Selling stocks off quickly on the open market ...

Figuring that out, and buying up the rocks... In other words, buying the winning cards ...
There were more scissors from the start so clearly the winning bias was for rock.
It's same for us too ...!
However ...
Buying up is easy.
... is sort of the easy part.



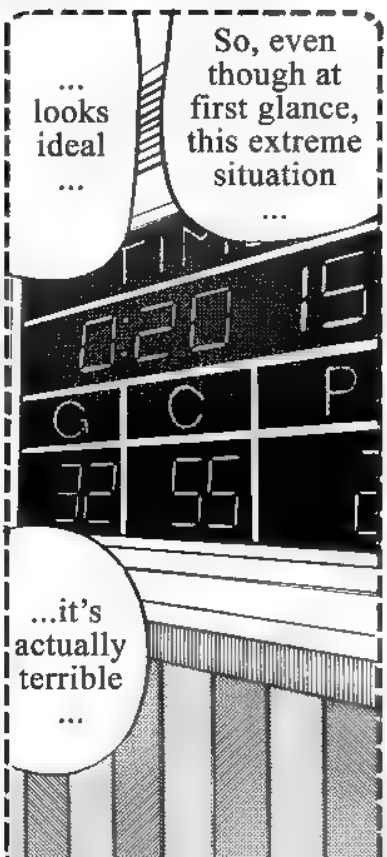
... selling is gonna be tough!

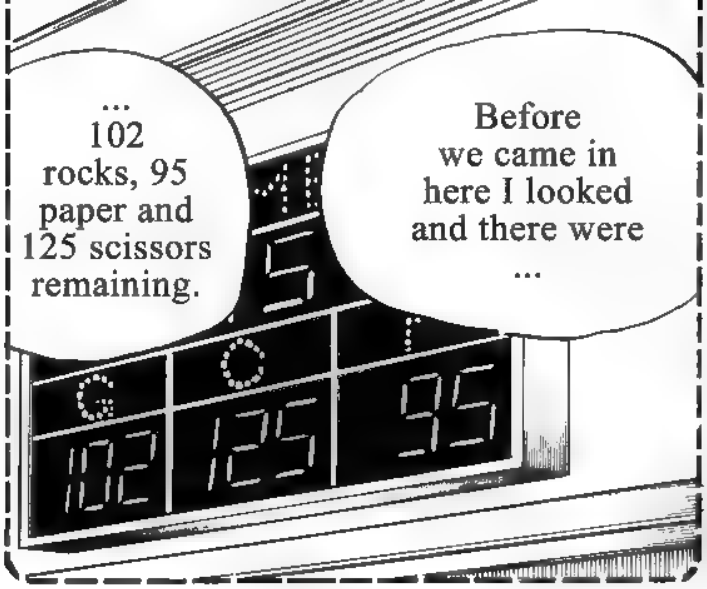
...no one would come play scissors against us anymore.
After that ...
...then pretty soon the whole floor would know about our little buying scheme.

.....
.....
And if they won't play then those "winning" cards are worthless.

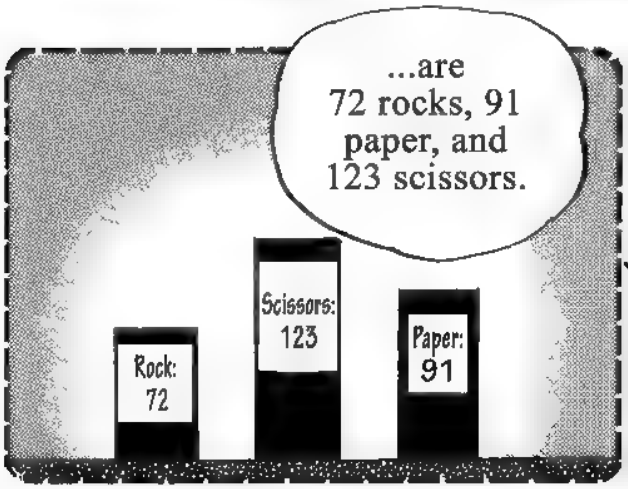
We can't let that happen.
We'd be hanging our own necks.

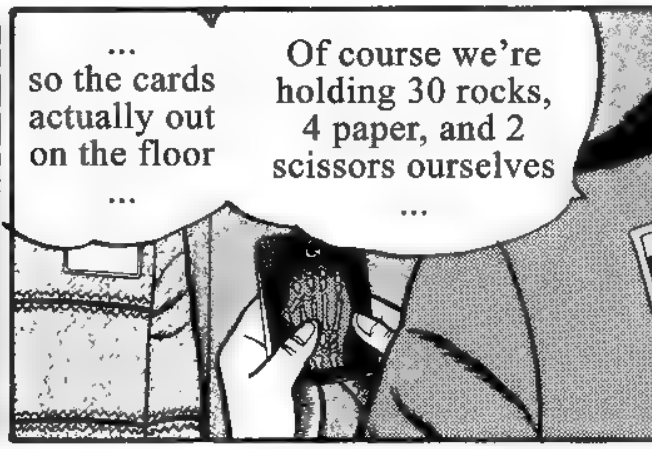
The problem is...
Just how far do we go ...?
So ...

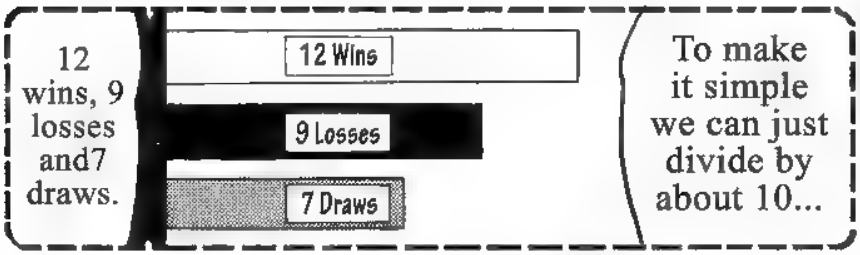

So, even though at first glance, this extreme situation ...
... looks ideal ...
...it's actually terrible ...


...
102 rocks, 95 paper and 125 scissors remaining.
Before we came in here I looked and there were ...
102
125
95

When is the best time ...?
How long do we wait before we move ...?

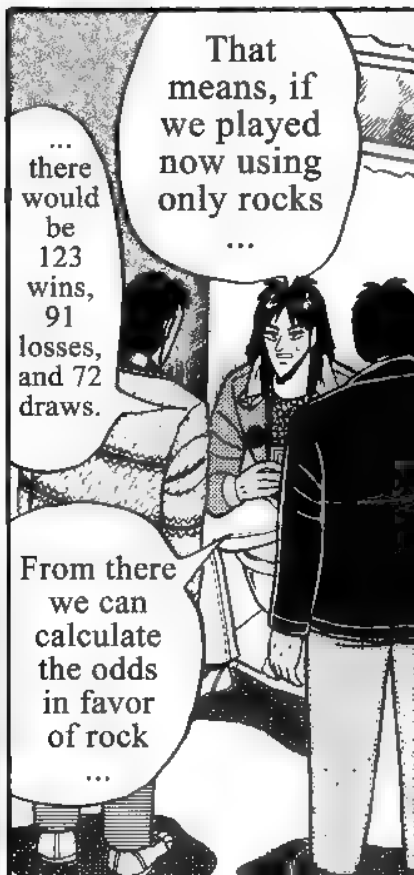

...are 72 rocks, 91 paper, and 123 scissors.
Rock: 72
Scissors: 123
Paper: 91


... so the cards actually out on the floor ...
Of course we're holding 30 rocks, 4 paper, and 2 scissors ourselves ...

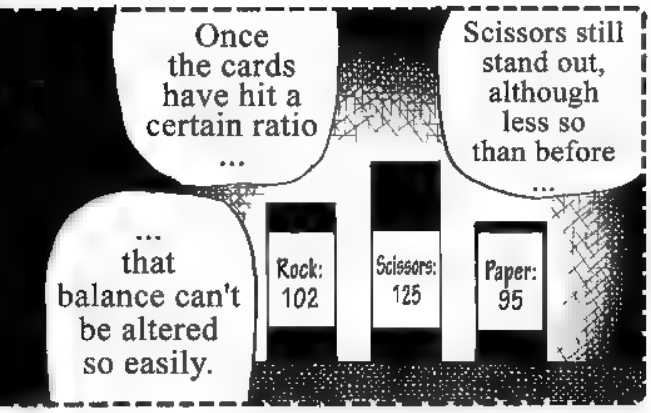

12 wins, 9 losses and7 draws.
12 Wins
9 Losses
7 Draws
To make it simple we can just divide by about 10...

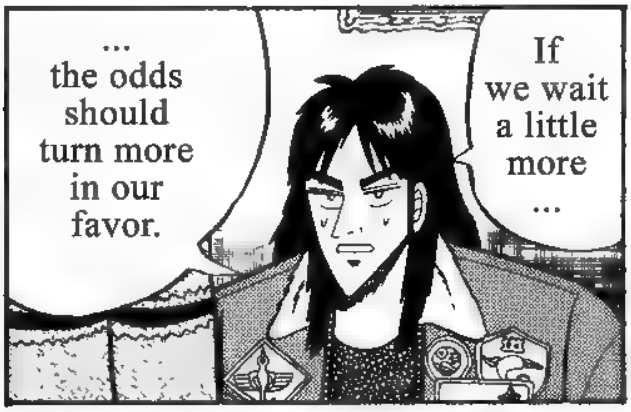
We don't want to jump the gun ...
We can't move yet.

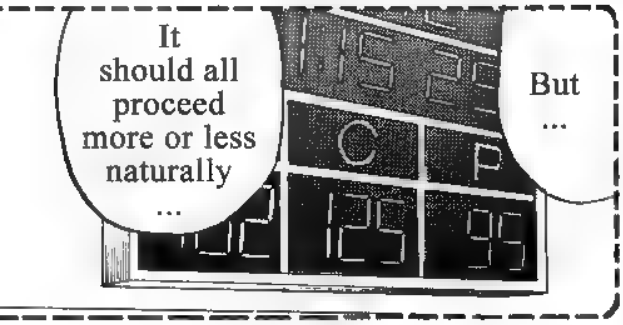
That's still too risky ...
That gives us about a 57% chance of winning.

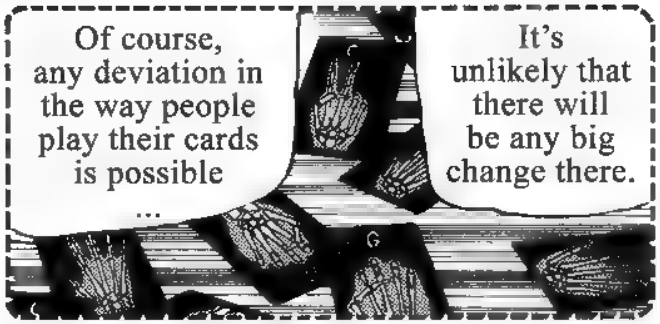

That means, if we played now using only rocks ...
... there would be 123 wins, 91 losses, and 72 draws.
From there we can calculate the odds in favor of rock ...

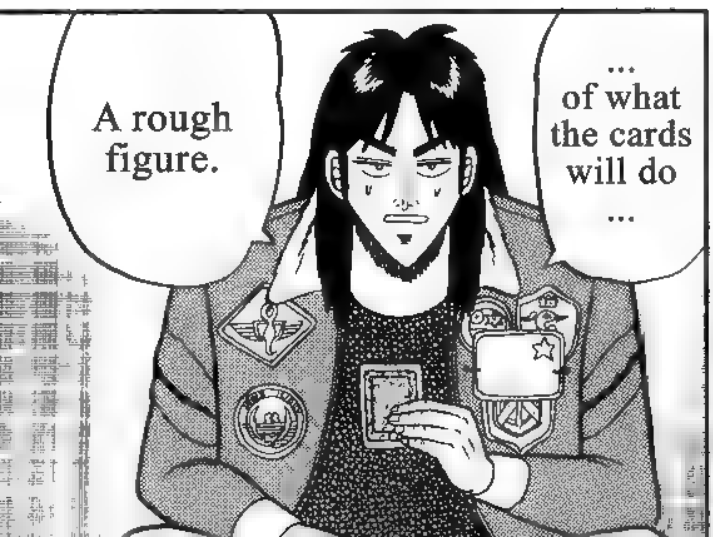
We wait a little more ...!

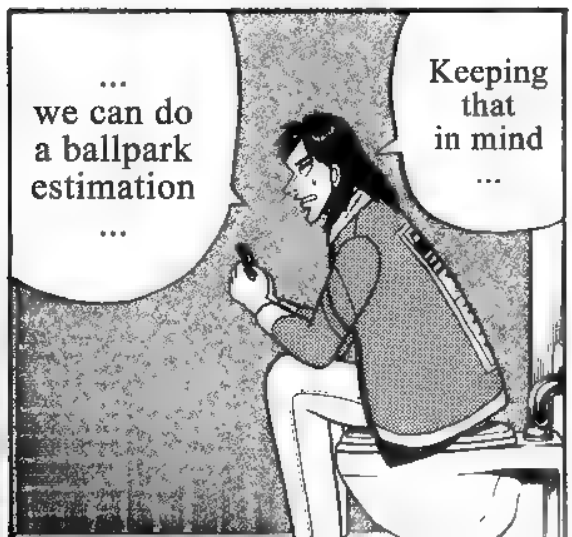

Once the cards have hit a certain ratio ...
Scissors still stand out, although less so than before ...
... that balance can't be altered so easily.
Rock: 102
Scissors: 125
Paper: 95


... the odds should turn more in our favor.
If we wait a little more ...


It should all proceed more or less naturally ...
But ...

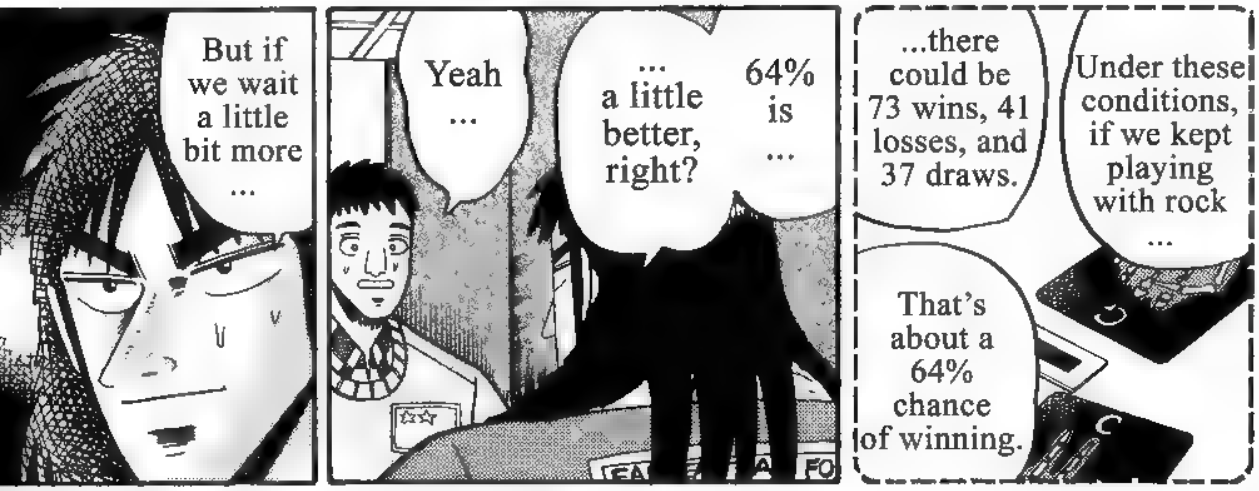

Of course, any deviation in the way people play their cards is possible ...
It's unlikely that there will be any big change there.

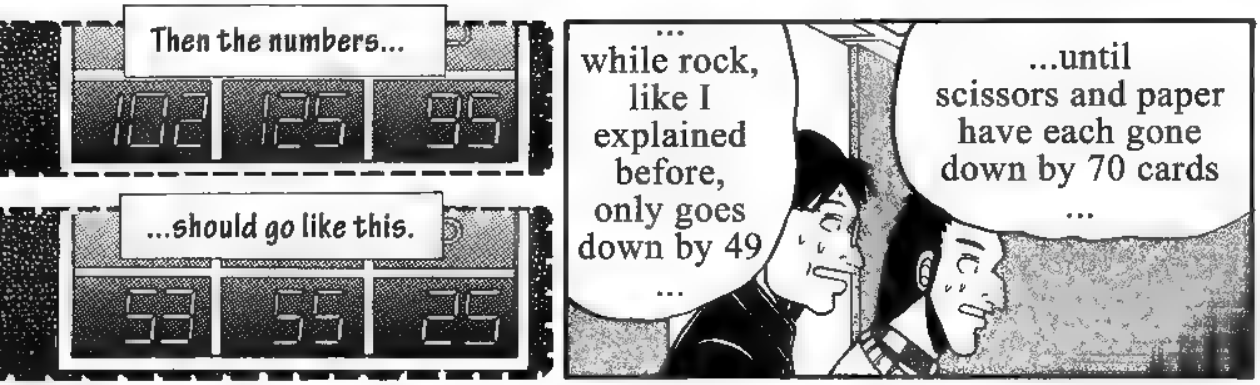

A rough figure.
... of what the cards will do ...

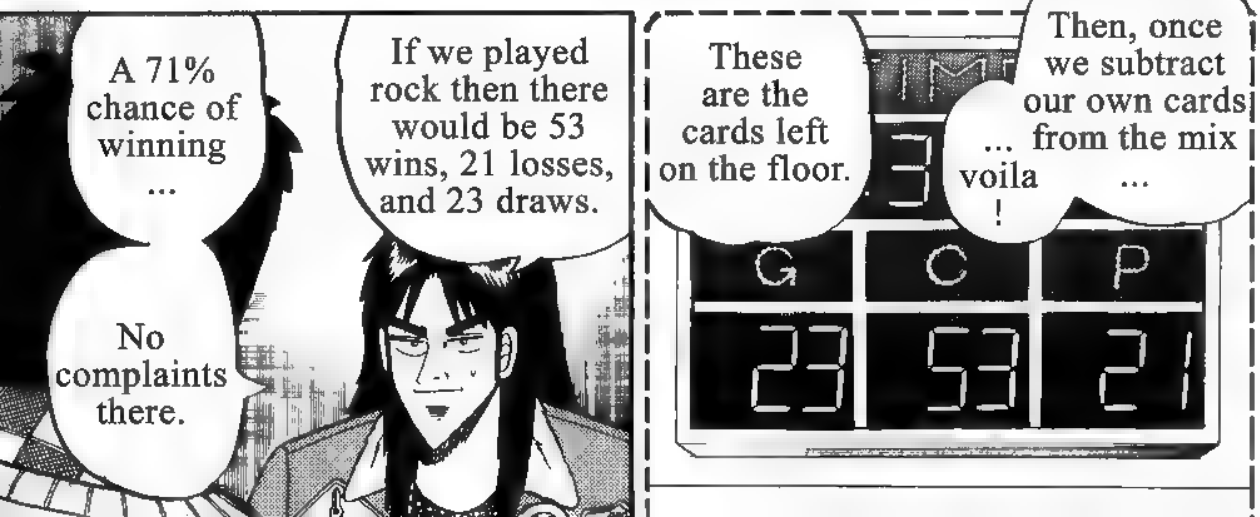

... we can do a ballpark estimation ...
Keeping that in mind ...

Huh ... ?
... meaning that rock only goes down by 35 cards.
...let's say that paper and scissors have each gone down by 50 cards ...
After 30 minutes ...
... but rock will stick at about 70% of that figure ...
Of the 102 rock cards on the electronic scoreboard ...
102
Remember
... only 70% of all rocks are being played.
In other words, right now ...
... so there's no chance that they move.
... 30 were bought by us ...
We still have to subtract the 30 rocks, 4 paper, and 2 scissors we're holding from the mix...
Of course, the numbers on the board aren't the true numbers.
... in order to get the real figures on the cards out on the floor.
102 125 95
Which means the numbers now ...*
Like this.
...should go down by 35, 50 and 50 respectively.
67 75 45

G C P
37 73 41
Like so ...!


But if we wait a little bit more ...
Yeah ...
... a little better, right?
64% is ...
...there could be 73 wins, 41 losses, and 37 draws.
Under these conditions, if we kept playing with rock ...
That's about a 64% chance of winning.

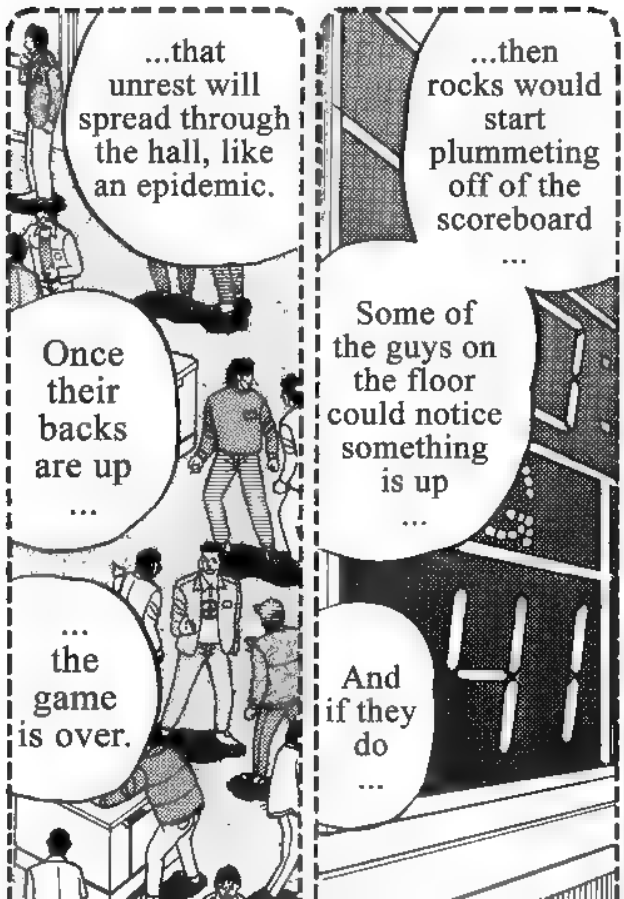

Then the numbers...
102 125 96
...should go like this.
53 55 25
... while rock, like I explained before, only goes down by 49 ...
...until scissors and paper have each gone down by 70 cards ...


A 71% chance of winning ...
If we played rock then there would be 53 wins, 21 losses, and 23 draws.
No complaints there.
These are the cards left on the floor.
Then, once we subtract our own cards ... from the mix ...
voila !
G C P
23 53 21

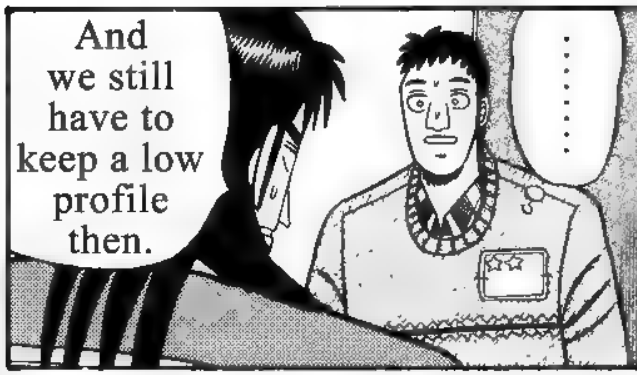
...
we're really reaching the rope's end for this trick.
If we consider the remaining cards
...
53 55 25

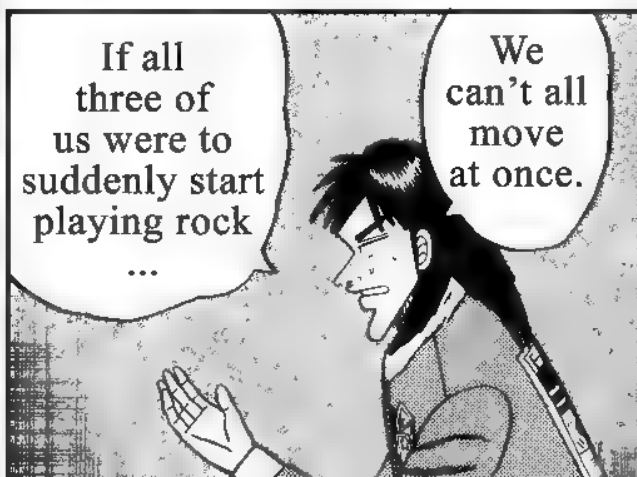
Or rather
...
...it's coming right down to the wire.

...
that 64% mark
...
...
and 71%
So, the best timing to make our move is probably in between
...


...that unrest will spread through the hall, like an epidemic.
Once their backs are up
...
...
the game is over.

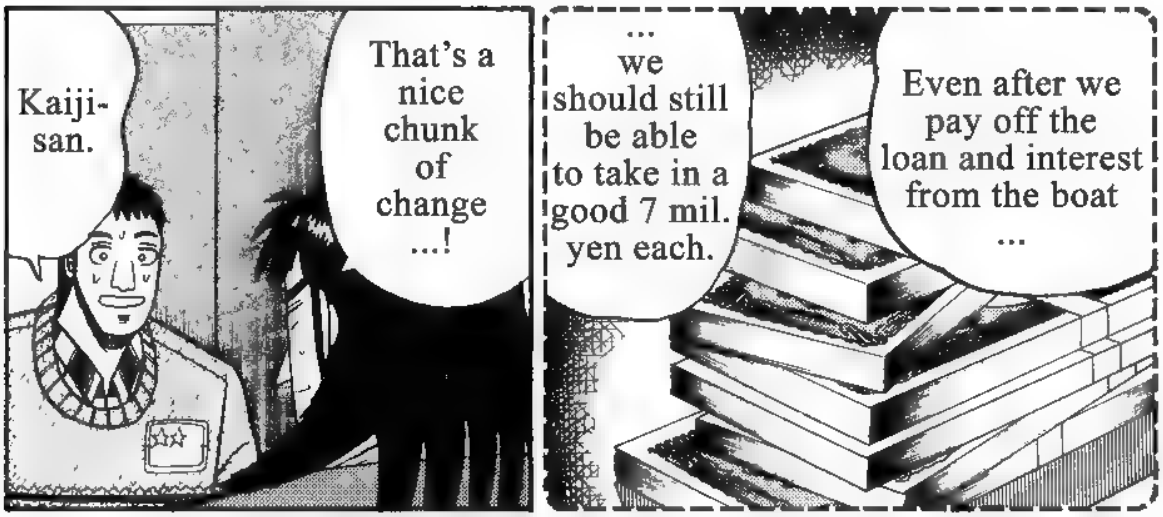
...then rocks would start plummeting off of the scoreboard
...
Some of the guys on the floor could notice something is up
...
And if they do
...


And we still have to keep a low profile then.
.....

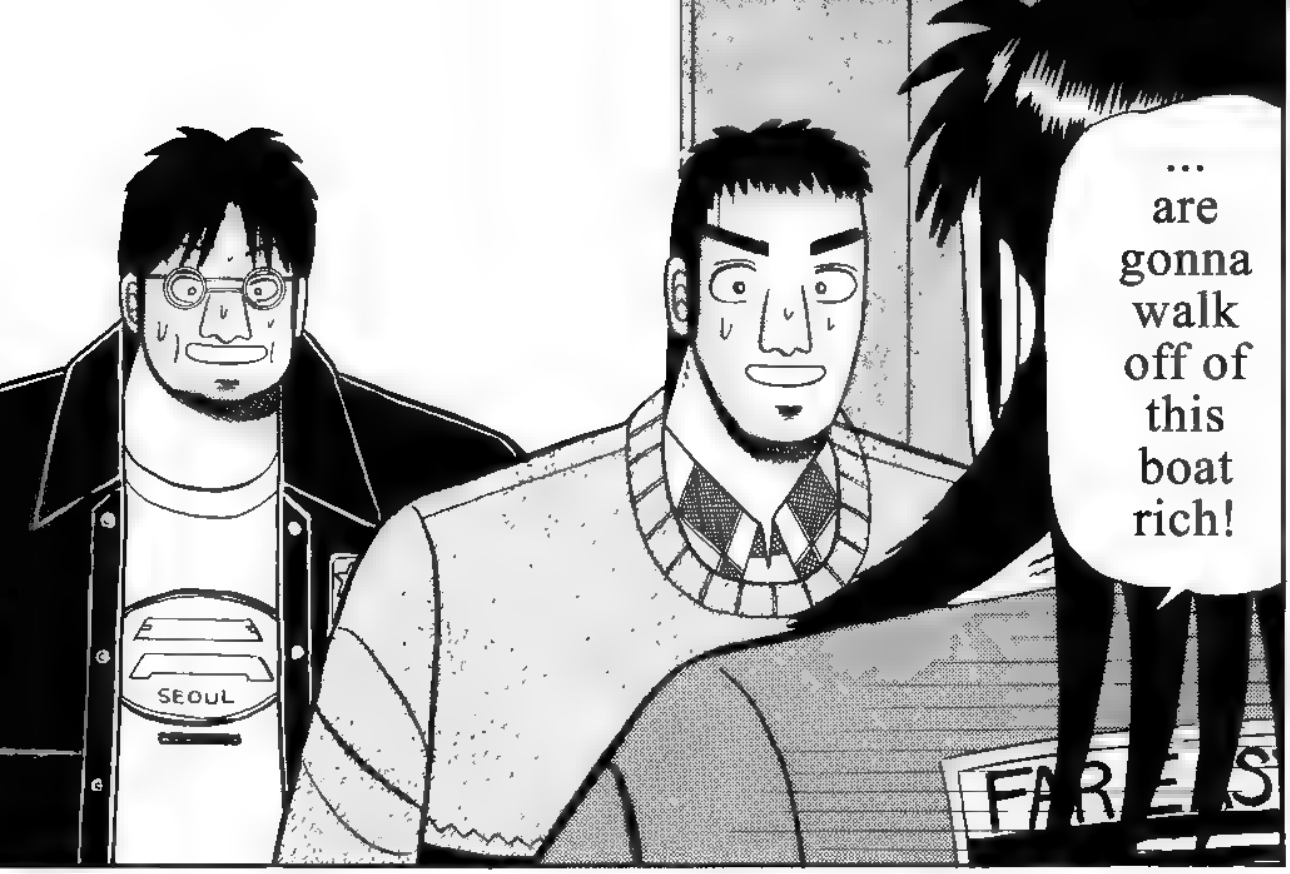

If all three of us were to suddenly start playing rock
...
We can't all move at once.

1 of us goes and plays about 10 rounds...
Once they've won a few ...
... they pack it in, and leave the floor ...
... and the 2nd guy goes.
In order to prevent that we need to go out 1 at a time.
The 2nd guy also plays 10 ...
... so that altogether the 3 of us play 30 matches.
Little by little ...
... we slip our rocks back onto the floor.
We have to blend in ...
But slowly. Absolutely no getting carried away ...
.....
In other words ...
We can't be noticed ...
As long as no one notices us ...
... then the plan should go off without a hitch.
The 3 of us will be able to get 10 stars... Maybe even 12 or 13...
.....

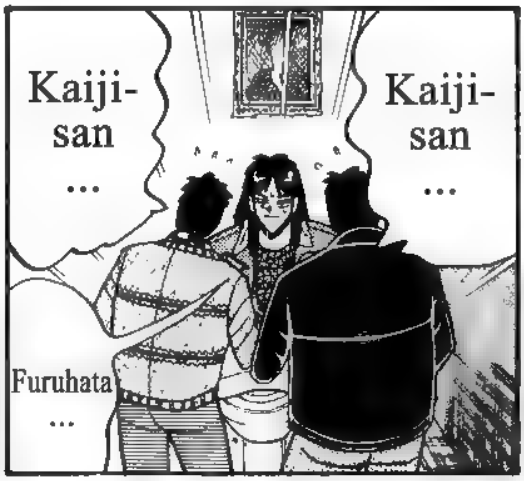
...
but that will still leave us with 8 or 9 extra.
Of those 12, we'll have to use 4 to bring ourselves up to 9...
In other words ...
.....
Kaiji-san ...!


Kaiji-san.
That's a nice chunk of change ...!
...
we should still be able to take in a good 7 mil. yen each.
Even after we pay off the loan and interest from the boat ...

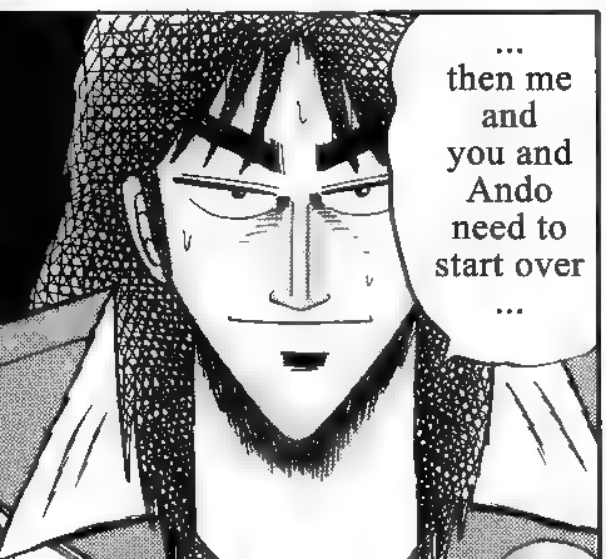
If we pull off this next hour right ...
Alright ?
... the 3 of us ...
We're gonna clean house ...!


SEOUL
... are gonna walk off of this boat rich!

It's time to start over ...


Kaiji-san ...
Kaiji-san ...
Furuhata ...

Kaiji-san ...


... then me and you and Ando need to start over ...

If we pull this off right and walk off the boat rich ...
... ?

... to find meaning .
We need ... ... to find focus ...

No more stagnating ... ... leading our lives like zombies ...

We need to make our lives worth something ...
SUNTORY OLD

Do you see ...?

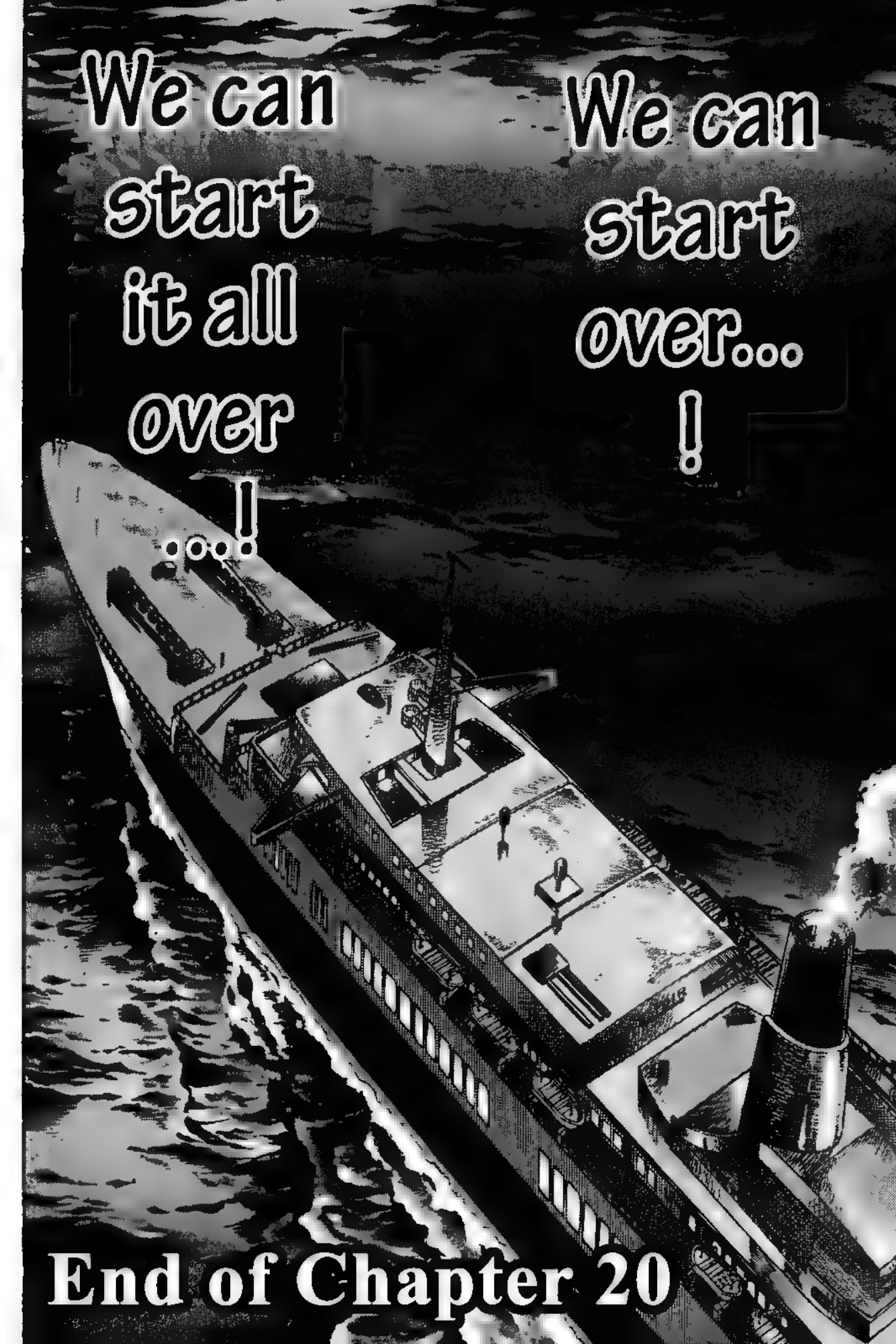
.....

For once and for all ...!

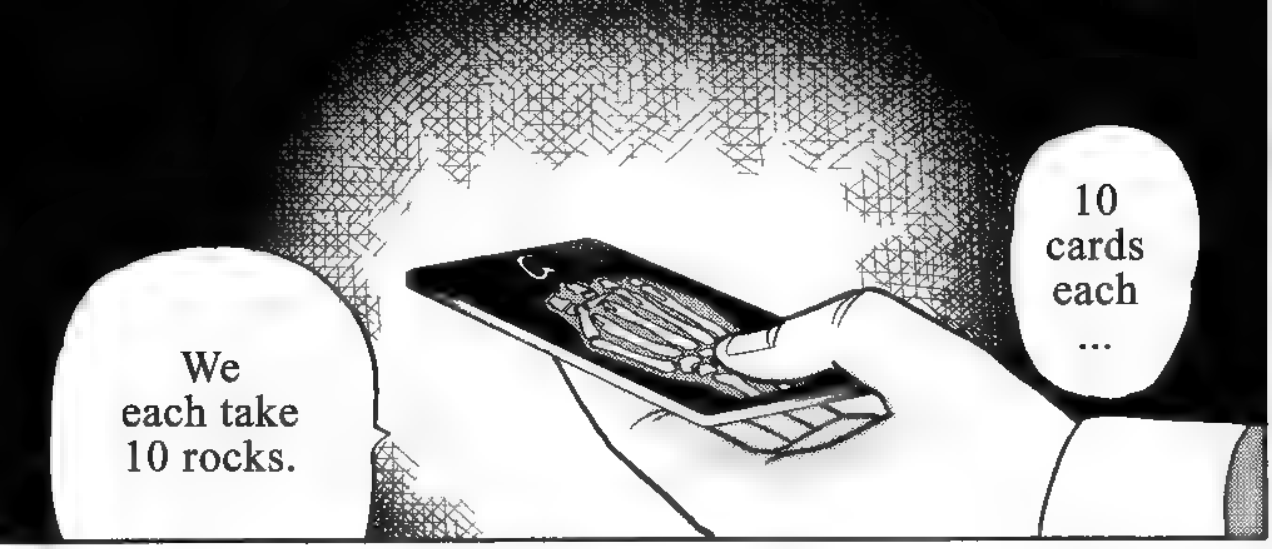
We need to start living different lives once we get out of here ...

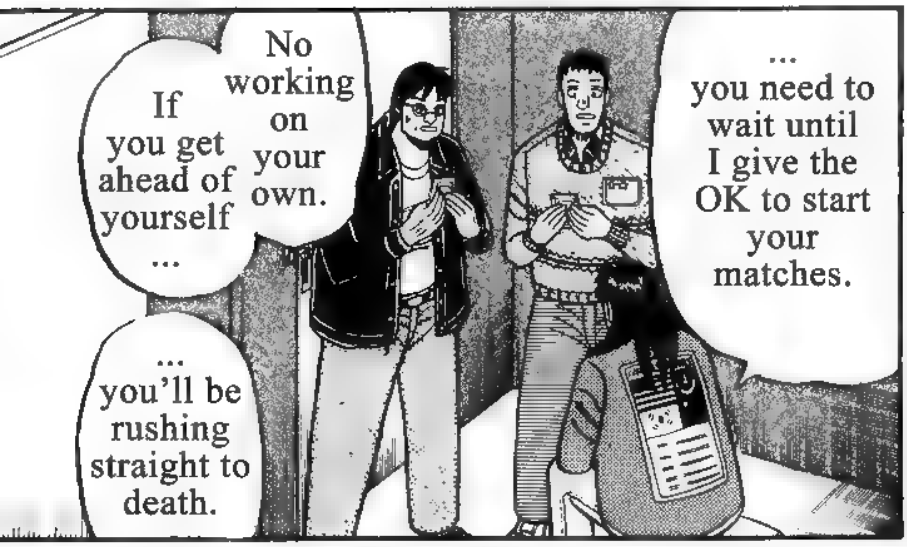
All I mean is ...
I know I'm not really making sense ...

Kaiji-san ...
.....
Ngh ...
SOB
This boat is our chance ...
Me too ...
I'm gonna do it ...!
.....



End of Chapter 20


We each take 10 rocks.
10 cards each ...


No working on your own.
If you get ahead of yourself ...
... you'll be rushing straight to death.
... you need to wait until I give the OK to start your matches.

But ...

... Yeah ...

Yes ...

Do you understand ... ?
We all have to be team players.

You'll destroy our whole strategy.

Chapter 21: Panic

Let's go ahead ...
... and get started.
FWAP
Alright ...
.....

The first thing we need to do is go and check ...
... on the electronic scoreboard.

Yeah ...
We can't do it.
... it would look too suspicious.
... can't go together.
But all three of us ...
If all three of us stood in a row and stared up at the board ...
We go one at a time.
1 at a time ...
... and we change every 5 minutes.
We watch the time and the remaining cards.

Ok ...
...to start playing our cards.
We keep this up until it's finally time...
...and this time somebody else goes.
...we change ...
After 5 minutes one comes back...
The other two wait here in the toilet.

Um ...

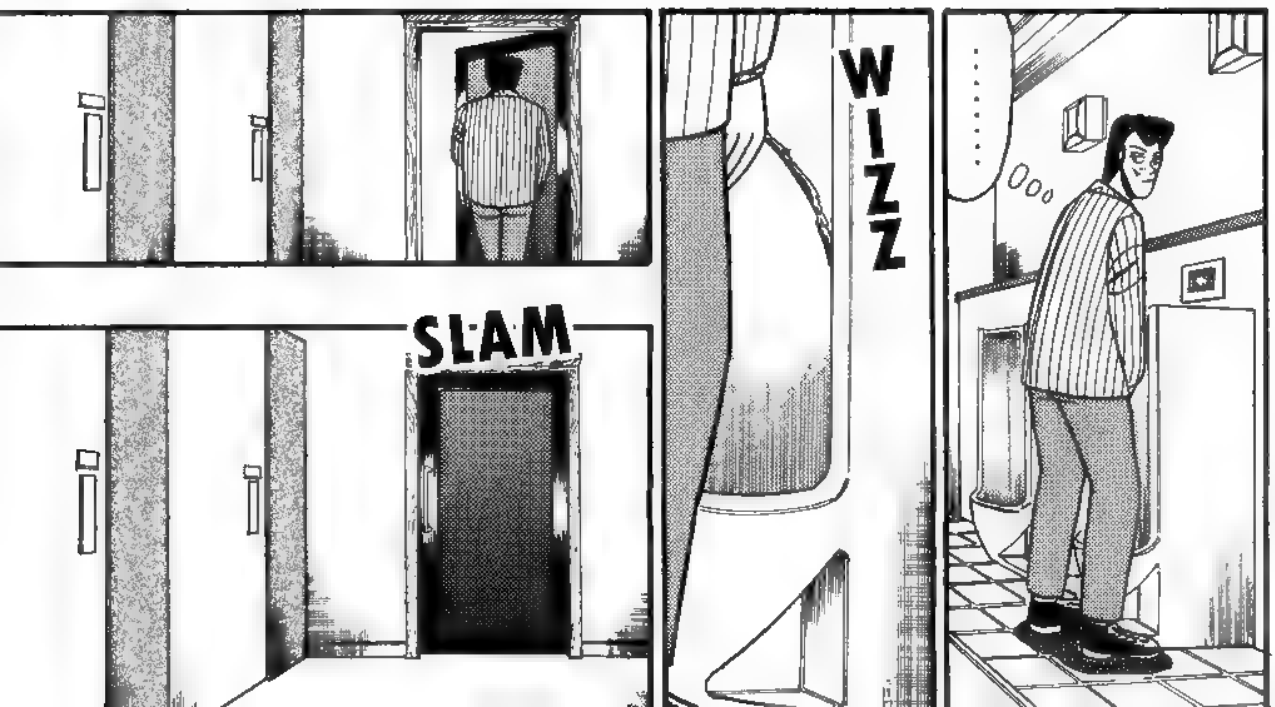
SQUEAK
Because ...

What should we do...
...if we have a chance to get a card...?
I mean, if we have a chance to buy cards ...?
Huh ...?

Shhh ...!
...but only 4 paper and 2 scissors...
We've got 30 rocks...

Somebody's here...
Huh ...?

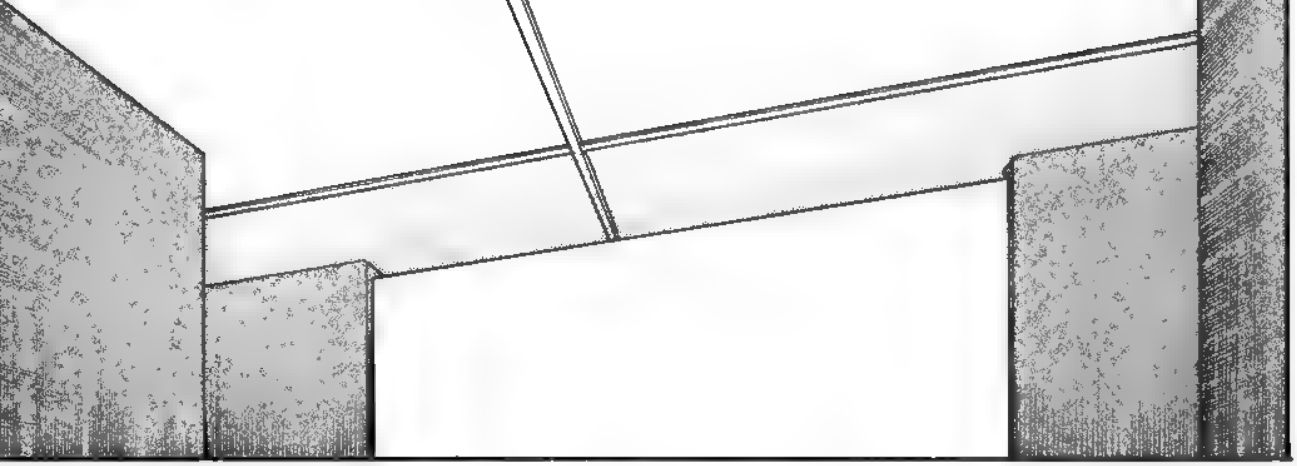
.....

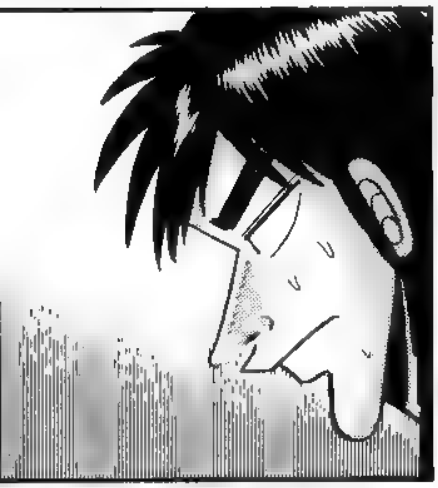

SLAM
WIZZ
.....
Ooo

.....
Maybe he didn't notice us...
.....
phew
.....
Ahh ...
Well ...?
...for scissors and paper is a little worrying...
That number ...
I figured, if we could, maybe we should go ahead...
I mean ...
Yes.

Yeah ...
4 paper and 2 scissors ...
.....
...and buy a few.
.....
No.
Don't we buy them...?
Let's not do it...
Okay!
Yeah!
Understand ...?
Nothing fishy...
We want to avoid doing anything that looks suspicious ...

Okay ...!
Go check the board.
You're first...
Okay now ...
Let's start ...
Ando ...
Man ...!
Okay guys, here I go.
SQUEAK
Okay ...!
Go without saying a word and come back without saying a word...!
When you go just go. Don't make a scene out of it.
What happens if somebody sees you?
Man ...
SLAM

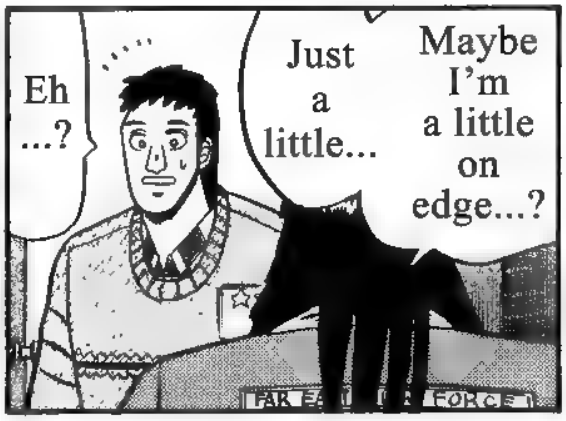


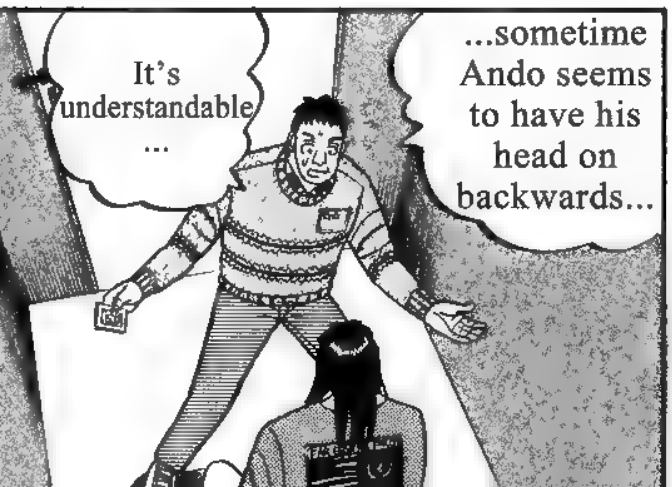


Hmph

.....
Oo

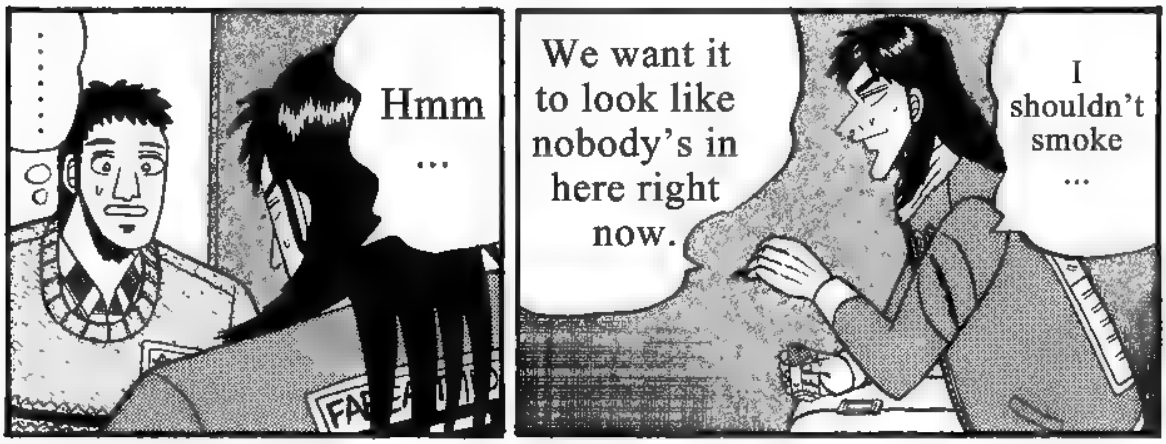
Not at all...
No ...

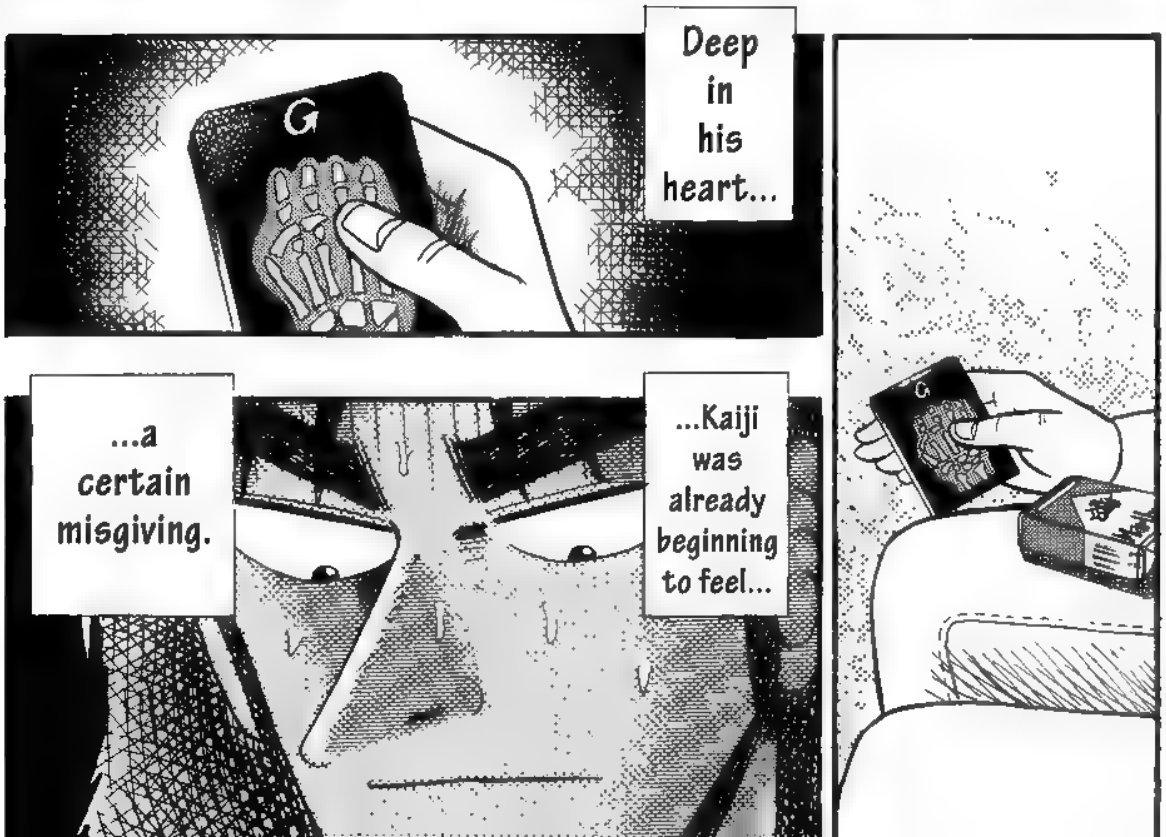

Eh ...?
Just a little...
Maybe I'm a little on edge...?


It's understandable ...
...sometime Ando seems to have his head on backwards...

Even if you did lose your temper just a little bit...
Don't worry about it.

Oops ...
Hmph
Anybody might lose their temper with him...!

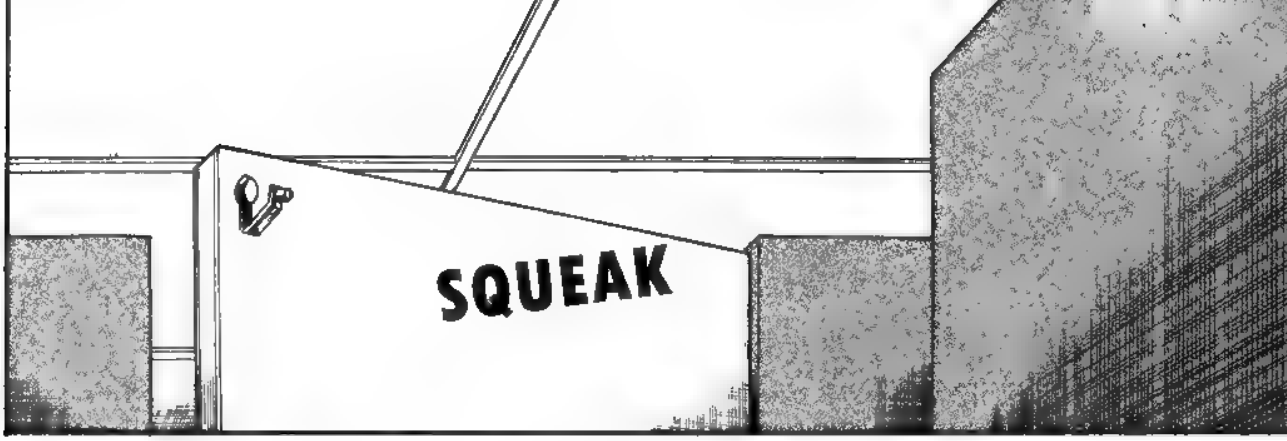

.....
Hmm ...
We want it to look like nobody's in here right now.
I shouldn't smoke ...


Deep in his heart...
...a certain misgiving.
...Kaiji was already beginning to feel...

.....

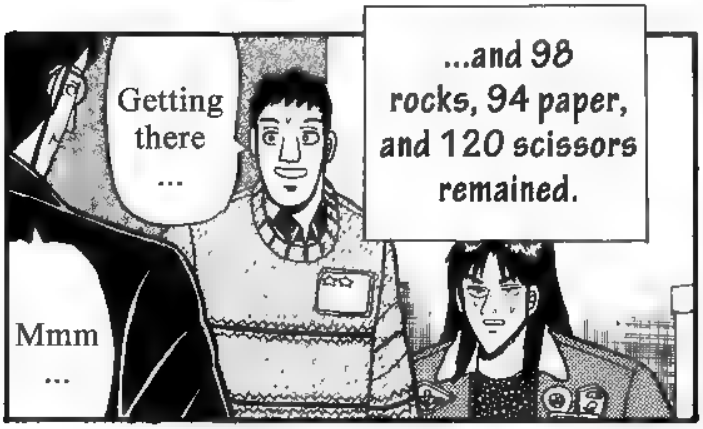
As if some unseen, hidden danger...
...were teasing at his subconscious.
But he just couldn't ...the place... source of his unease.
.....

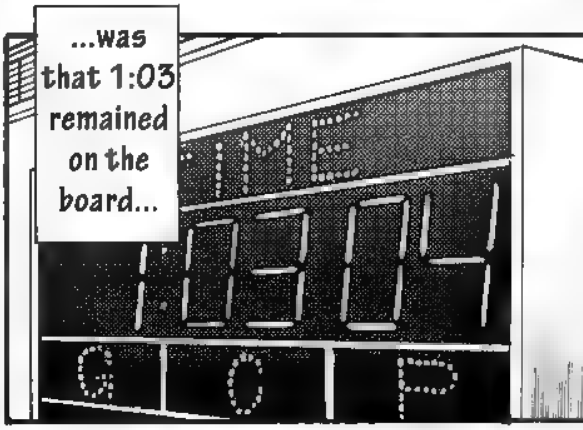
All the same, he couldn't help feeling...
...a sense of danger ...
As if some small omen...
...had registered deep in his subconscious.


SQUEAK

The latest report ...

...Ando returned .
5 minutes later...


Getting there ...
...and 98 rocks, 94 paper, and 120 scissors remained.
Mmm ...


...was that 1:03 remained on the board...

.....

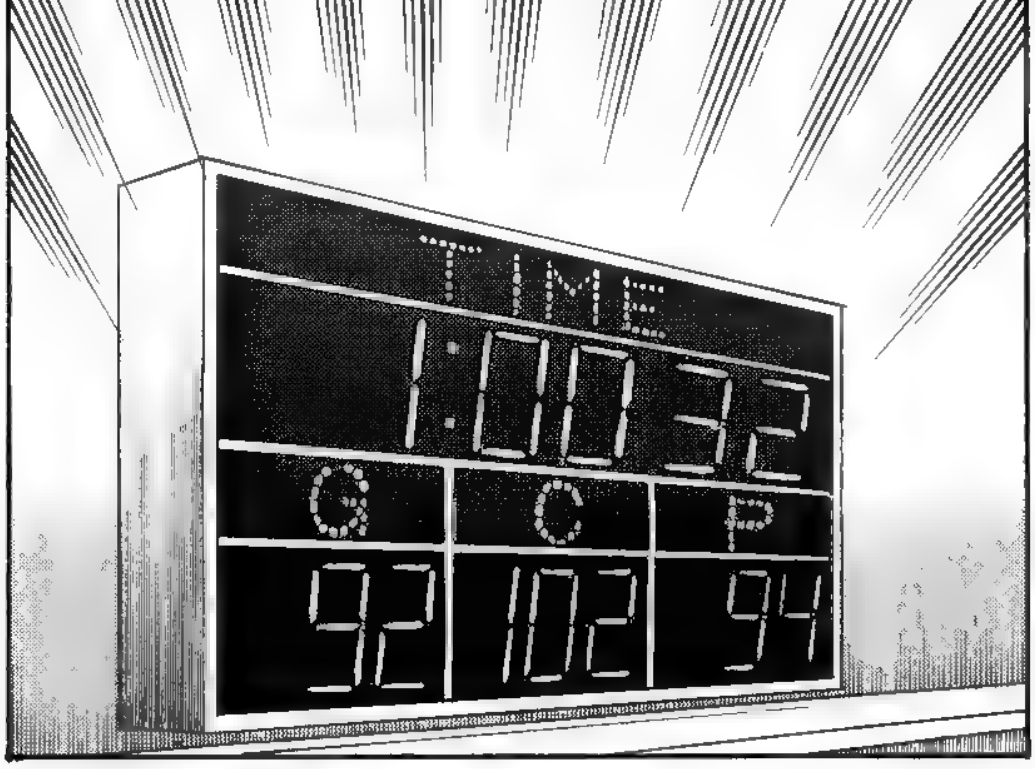
...the cards were disappearing normally.
SLAM

After the first check...
Alright, I'm off next.

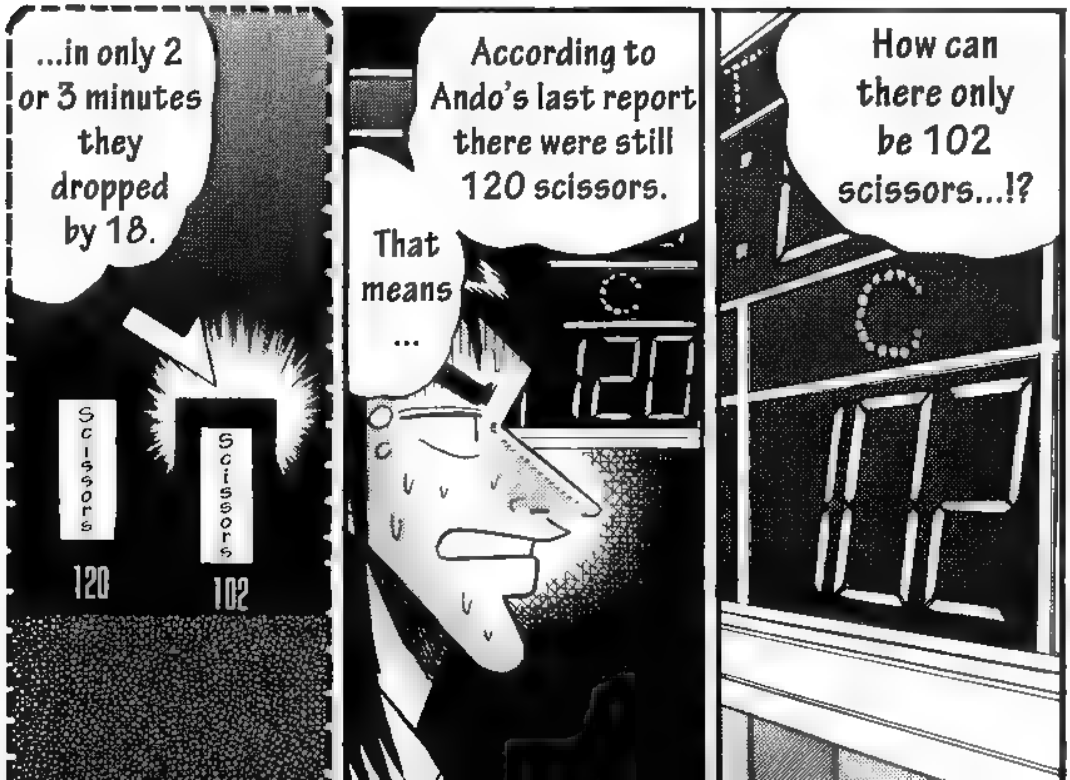
...Kaiji couldn't shake his unease.
All the same ...
...that unease only grew stronger.
Instead ...
Isn't it...?
Everything is going as planned ...
What could be wrong...?
POUND POUND ... POUND
Suddenly ...
.....
There's no reason to be worried ...
What am I getting so upset for...?

Kaiji-san...
It hadn't been 5 minutes yet...
Kaiji-san...!
In fact, it had only been 2 or 3 when Furuhata returned...
...his face looking pale and wan!
Something's wrong...
Something...
.....
What is it...?

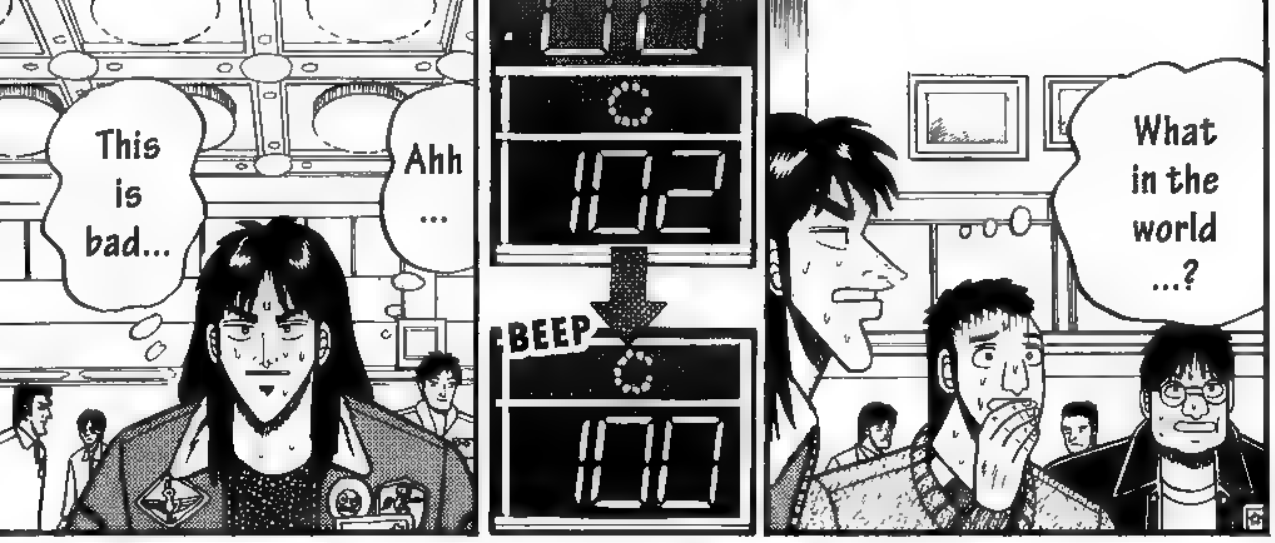
What was this all about ...!?

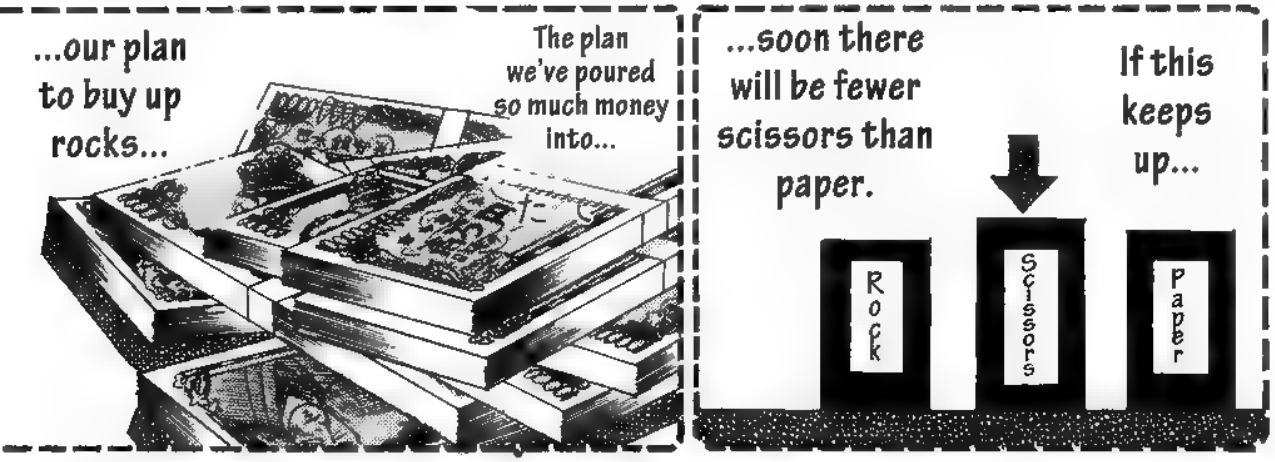


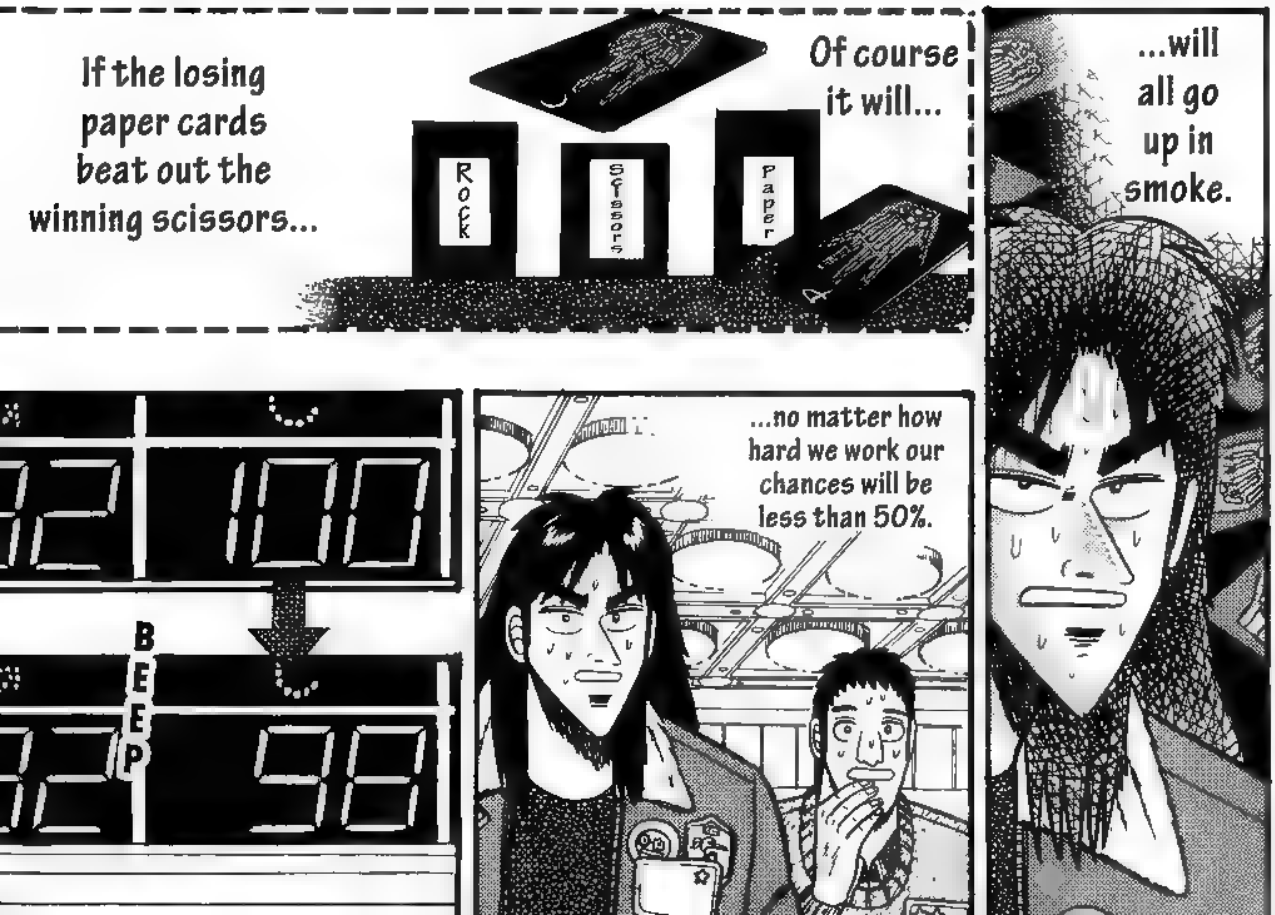
...! had all been true!

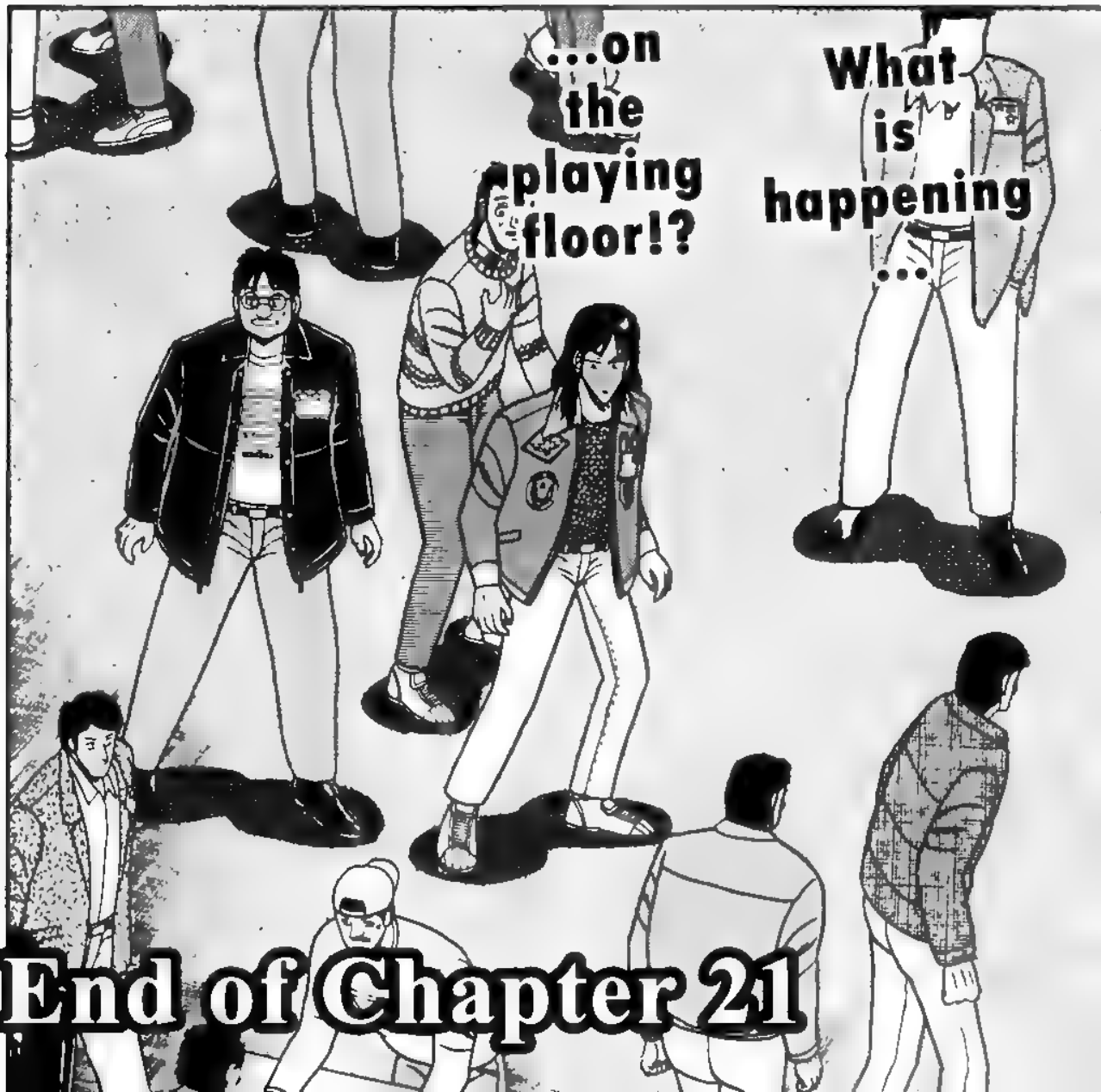


Incredible...!


This is bad...
Ahh ...
102
BEEP
100
What in the world ...?


...our plan to buy up rocks...
The plan we've poured so much money into...
...soon there will be fewer scissors than paper.
If this keeps up...
Rock
Scissors
Paper


If the losing paper cards beat out the winning scissors...
Of course it will...
Rock
Scissors
Paper
...will all go up in smoke.
100
BEEP
98
...no matter how hard we work our chances will be less than 50%.

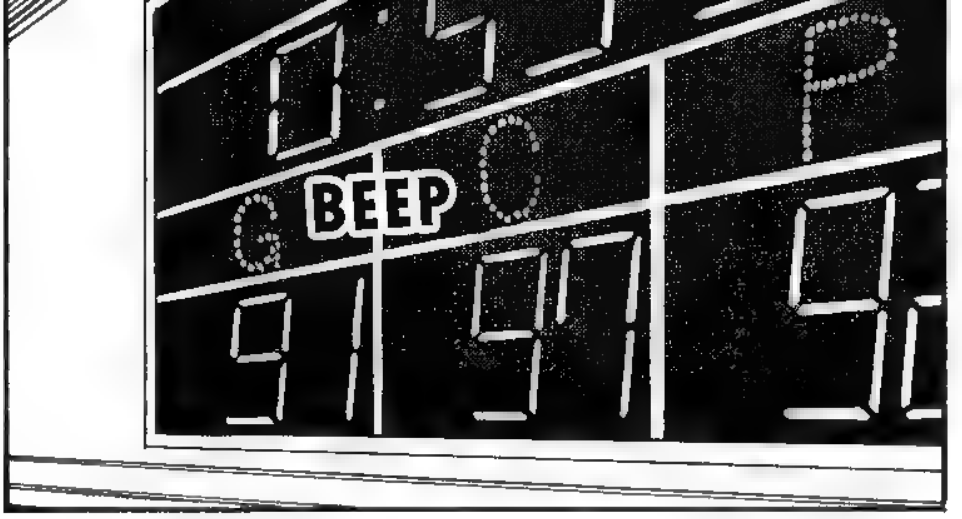


End of Chapter 21

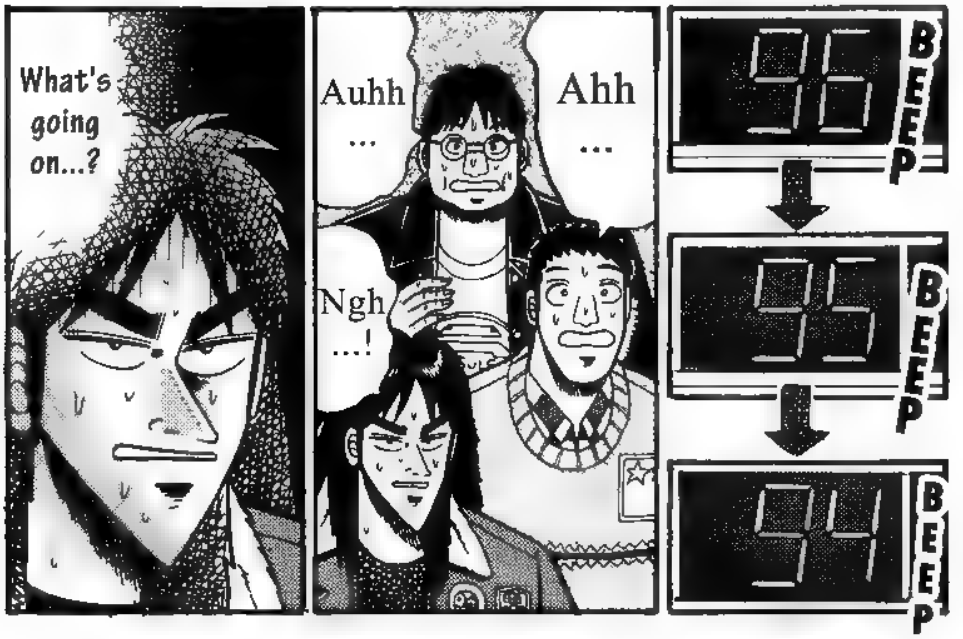
Chapter 22: Ruin

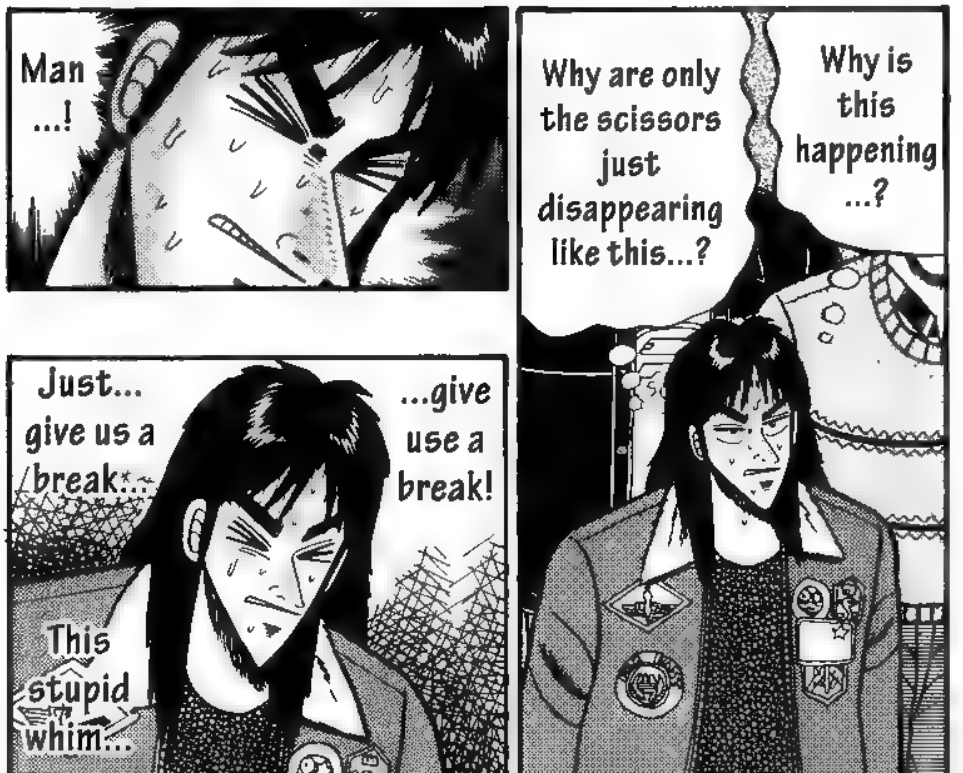
Gambling Apocalypse

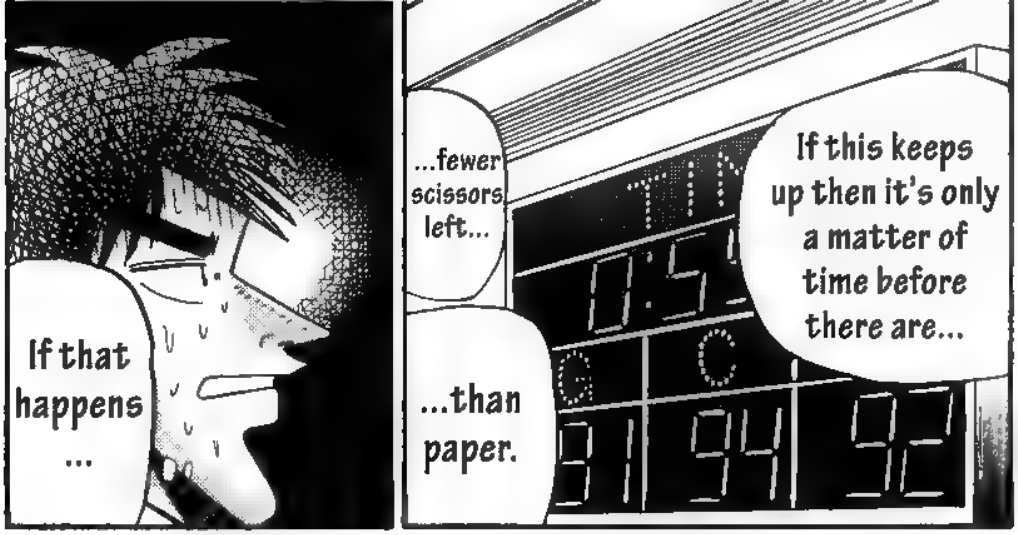
Kaiji

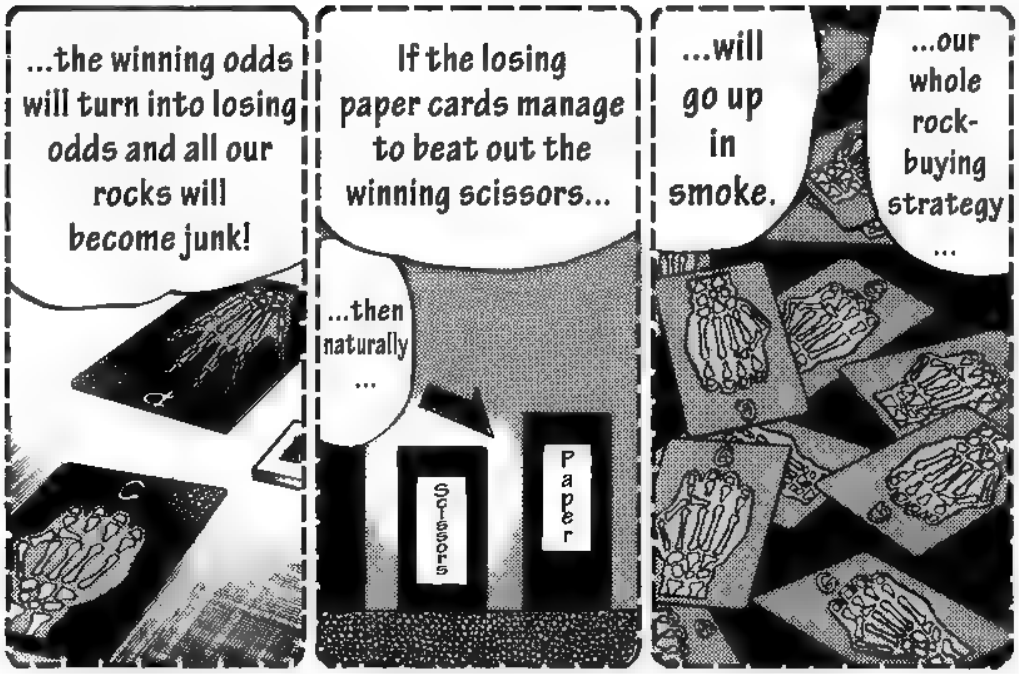


The ballgame had changed suddenly...!




Man...!
Why are only the scissors just disappearing like this...?
Why is this happening...?
Just... give us a break...
...give use a break!
This stupid whim...




...the winning odds will turn into losing odds and all our rocks will become junk!
If the losing paper cards manage to beat out the winning scissors...
...then naturally ...
Scissors
Paper
...will go up in smoke.
...our whole rock-buying strategy ...

...and "bias"... please, just stop!

It's too late ...!
Kaiji-san ...!
Why is this happening ...!?
We have to go play!
This is the deadline ...!
.....
Let's go...!
We need to play now...
...before even more scissors disappear ...!
Scissors
Paper
Scissors and paper are at an even count.
We ride it out...!
While we sit here talking ...
We have to ride it out...
Kaiji-san...!
No ...!
Huh ...?

Don't let this one situation scare you ...!

And I'm not only talking about here on this boat...
.....

Doing that is the reason the 3 of us have failed so many time up until now ...!
We can't just go by the short term before we act.

.....
If we don't ride this out then it's hopeless...!

It's time to wake up...!
Why don't you think about your life up until now...?

Things will turn around ...!

Whatever's going on right now it can't go on forever...

And not waver ...!

We have to wait...!

Think of it psychologically.

That's not just a hunch talking.

If all the scissors disappear, then people won't hesitate to play their paper cards.

...while scissors stop.

In fact, things might go the other way next, and paper will start disappearing ...

It's bound to ...it has to happen.

Scissors

Paper

...that people will hesitate to use scissors for fear of rocks...

Which should mean ...

...and their numbers will slow to a crawl.

Rock

Scissors

Since the 3 of us are holding so many rocks...

As for the scissors ...?

...their numbers aren't likely go down by much.

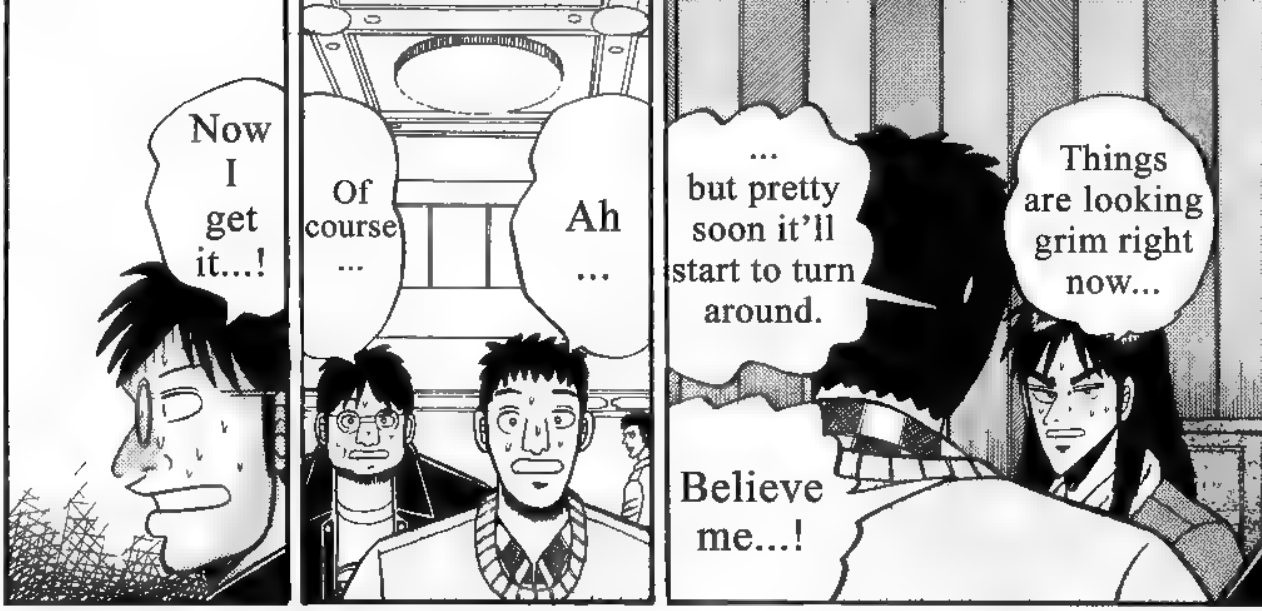
...people are bound to start playing them.

Without the scissors around to beat them...

Scissors

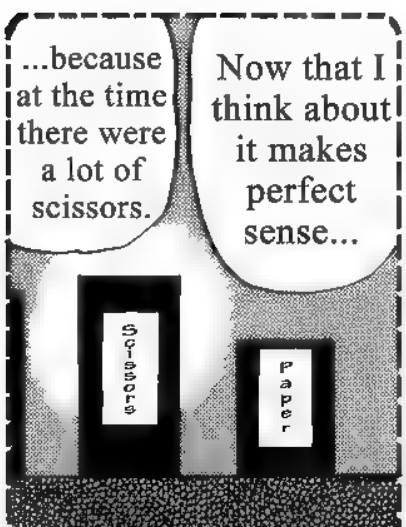
Paper

It's only natural.


Now I get it...!
Of course ...
Ah ...
... but pretty soon it'll start to turn around.
Things are looking grim right now...
Believe me...!

That's why paper wasn't moving before.

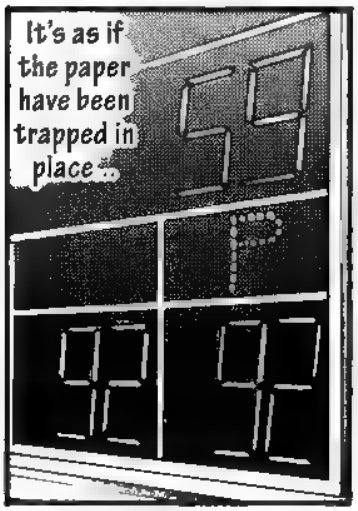
It's something I wondered about back when we were buying up cards...
Huh ...?

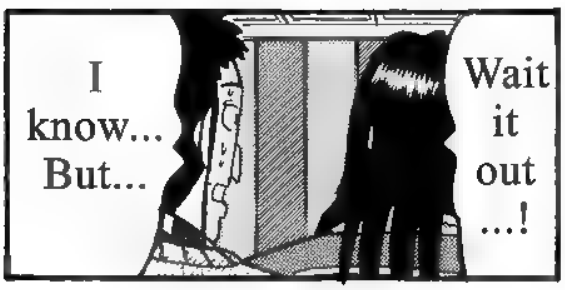

...because at the time there were a lot of scissors.
Now that I think about it makes perfect sense...
Scissors
Paper

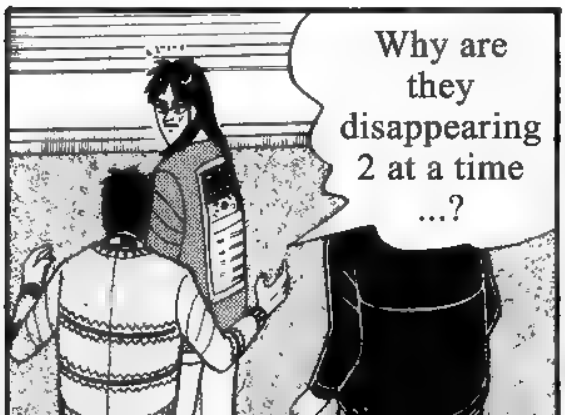
But ...
The drop in paper had slowed down a little...

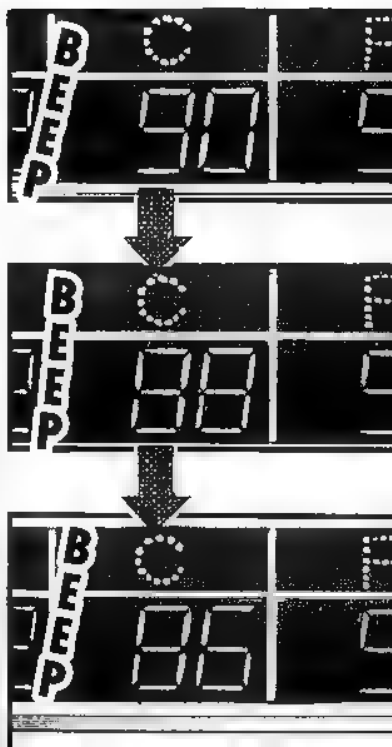
Ahh ...
That's all it was ...!
...because people were hesitating to play them.
It's only natural that paper wasn't disappearing ...
Now that I think about it...
...before and after...
...the card that moved the least is paper.
At last ...
Why didn't I notice that sooner...
Man ...
?.....
Kaiji had finally found the source...
...of his growing unease.
Kaiji had noticed, but only in the nagging corners of his mind...
He had wanted his plan to succeed so badly...
...that it had clouded his vision.

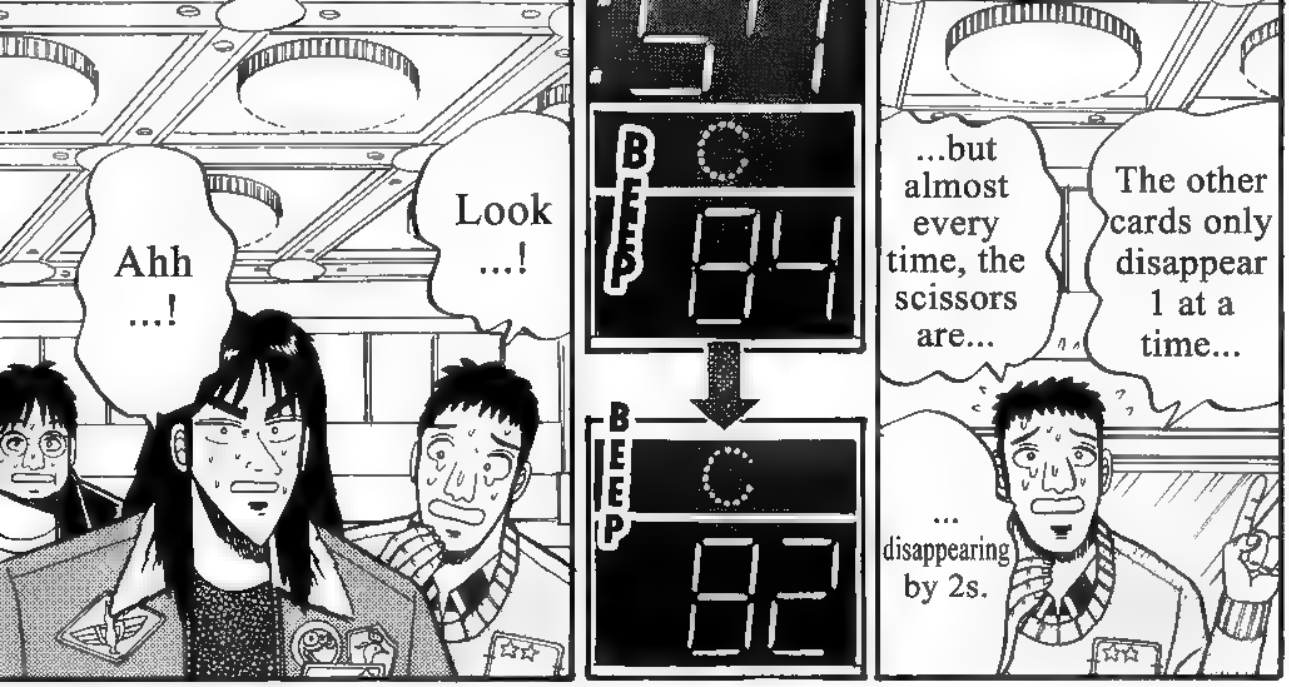
Hope had blinded him...!

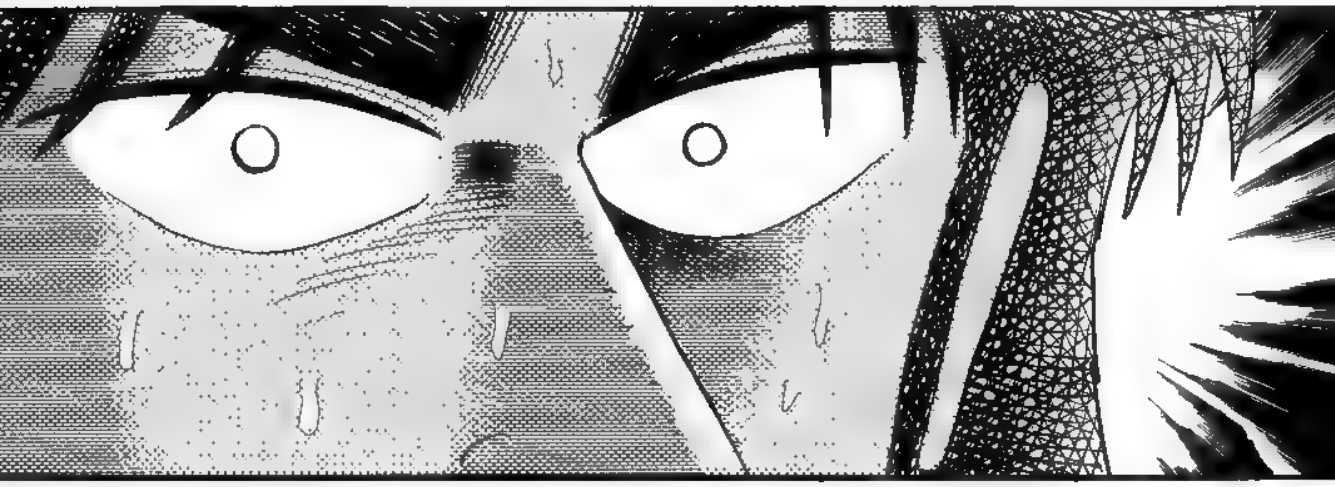


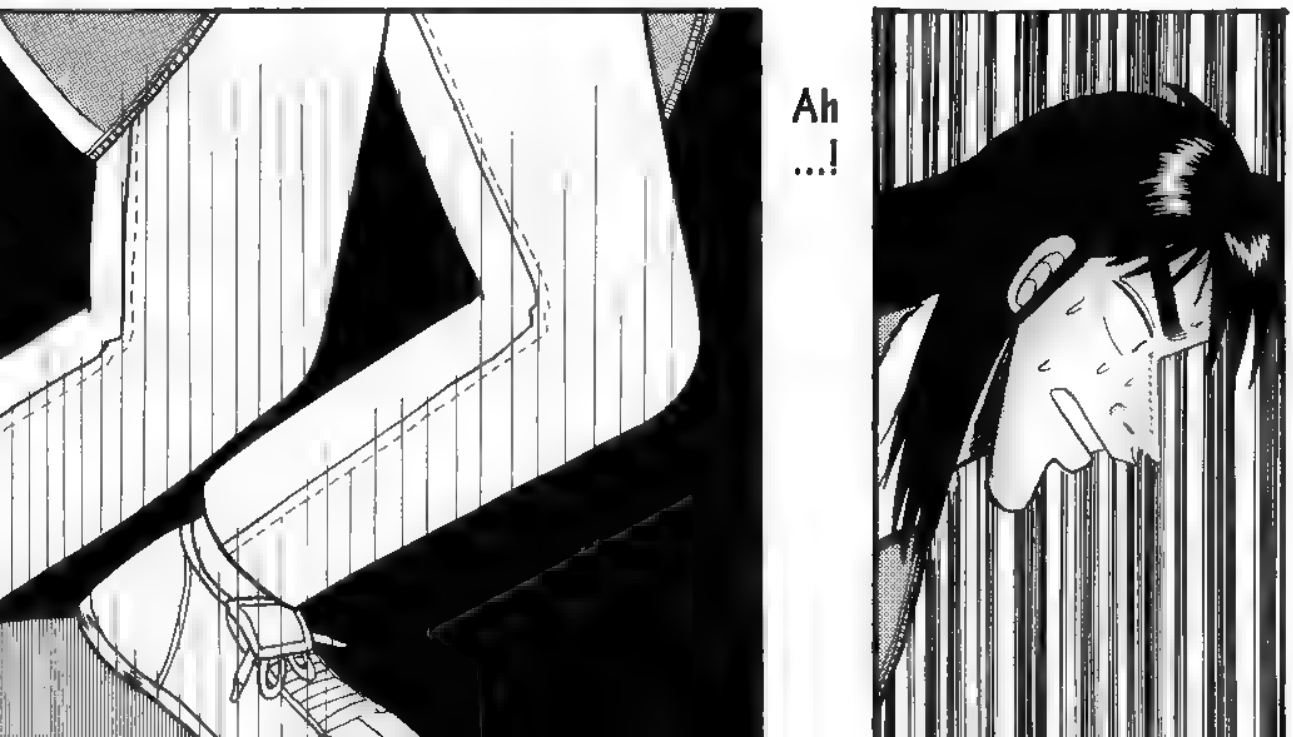


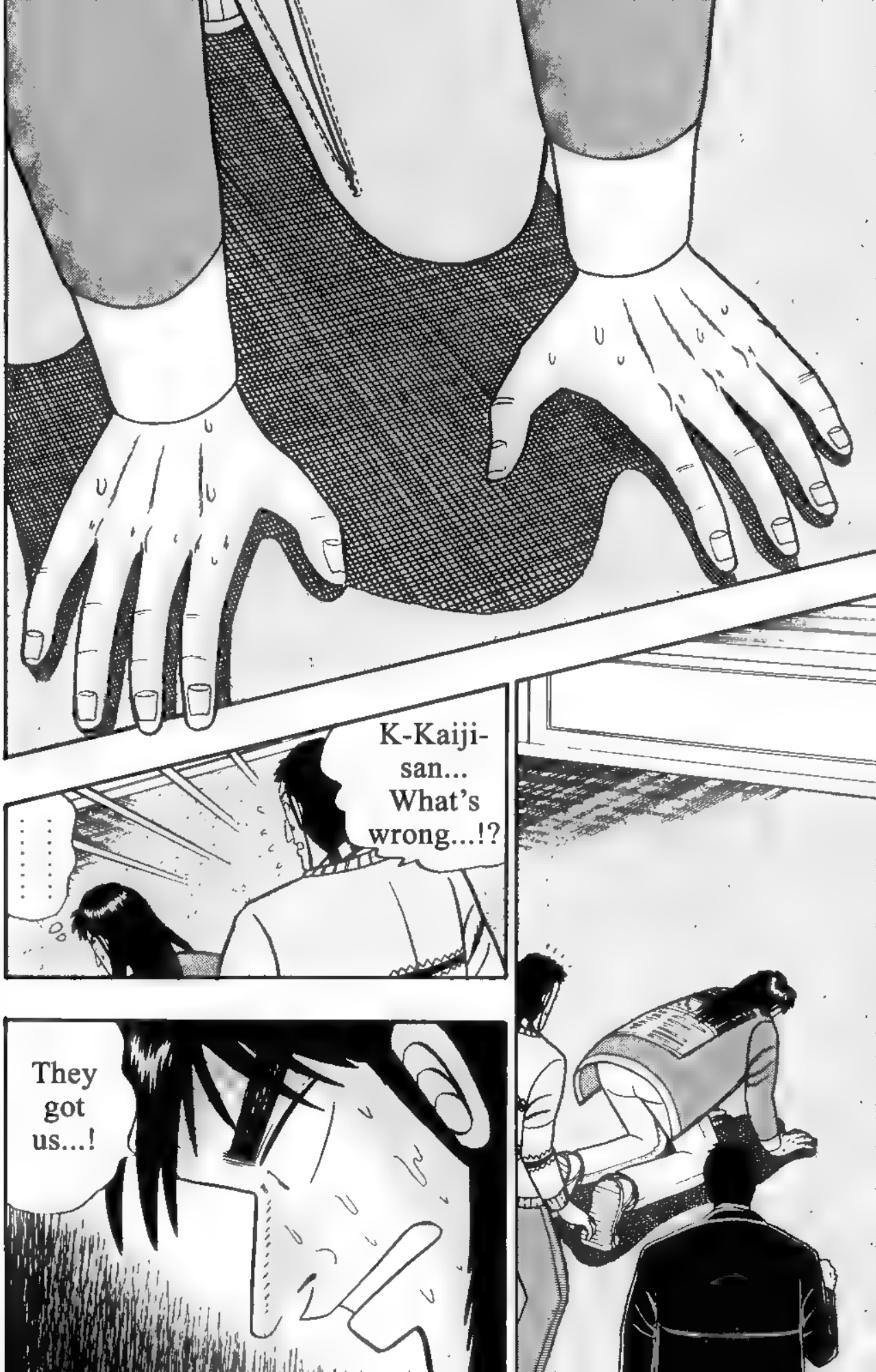


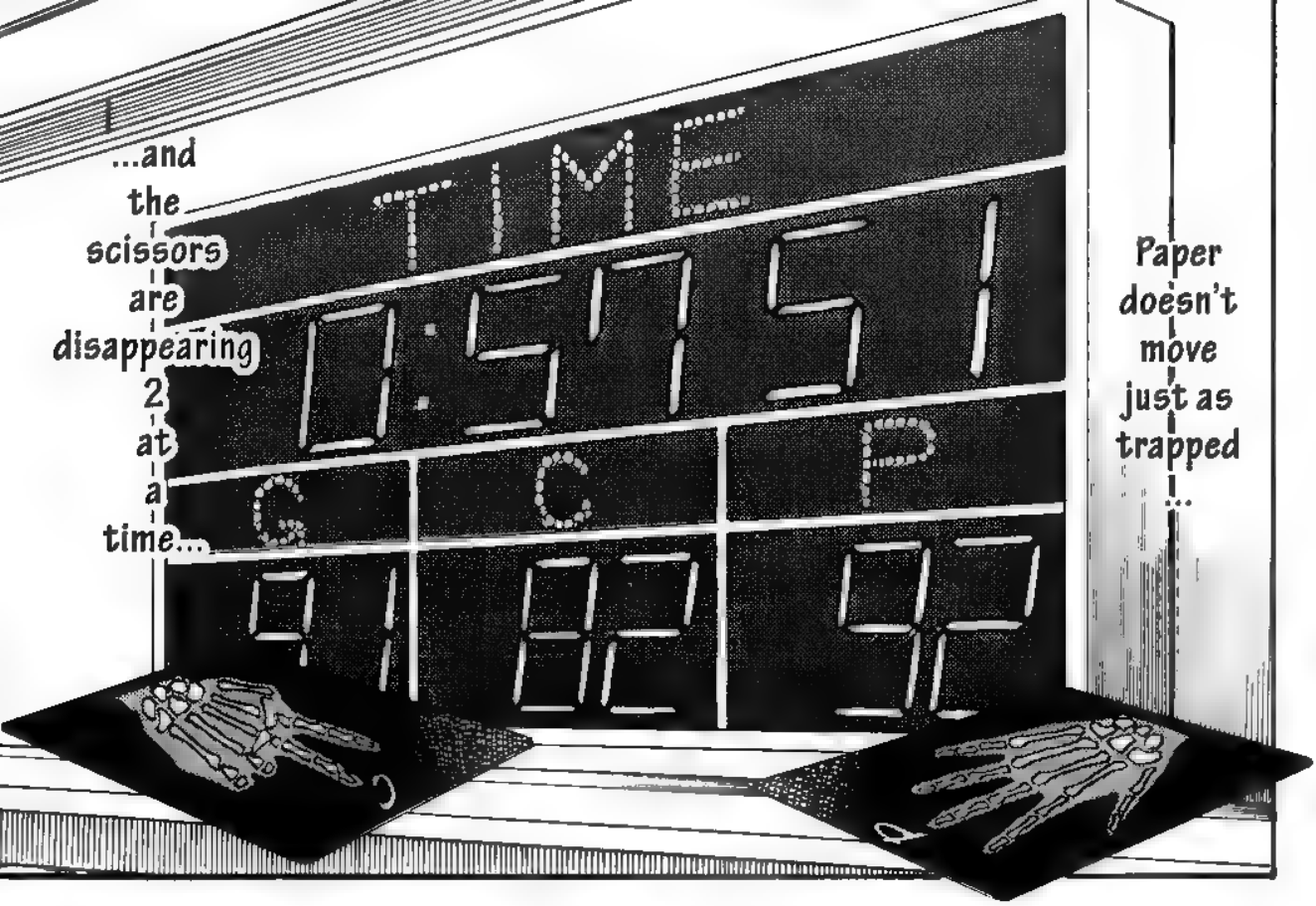



Ahh ...!
Look ...!
BEEP
BEEP
...but almost every time, the scissors are...
The other cards only disappear 1 at a time...
... disappearing by 2s.



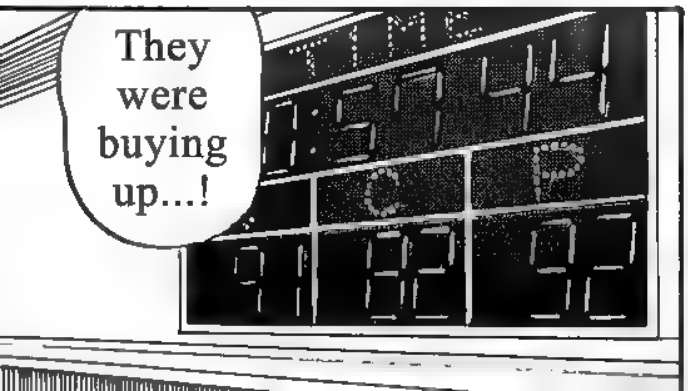

Ah ...!


K-Kaiji-san... What's wrong...!?
They got us...!


...and the scissors are disappearing 2 at a time...
Paper doesn't move just as trapped ...

...and only thing!
Both of these signs point to the same...

.....
What are you talking about...?


They were buying up...!

Kaiji-san ...?
We weren't the only ones...

Huh ...?
They got us ...

Someone has been buying up paper ...!
ざわ
ざわ
SEOUL
Just like we were buying rocks...
... someone else was at work...
That's why they're disappearing 2 at a time.
...is playing scissors.
Which is why...
While they did that, we were busy buying rock.
They're all draws ...!
...right now, almost everyone ...
The only possibility is that somebody was buying them up...
The way they stuck in place is too unusual ...
The reason that paper was hardly moving was because somebody else was buying them up.
.....
I'm certain ...
I know it...
I'm sure of it...
What !?

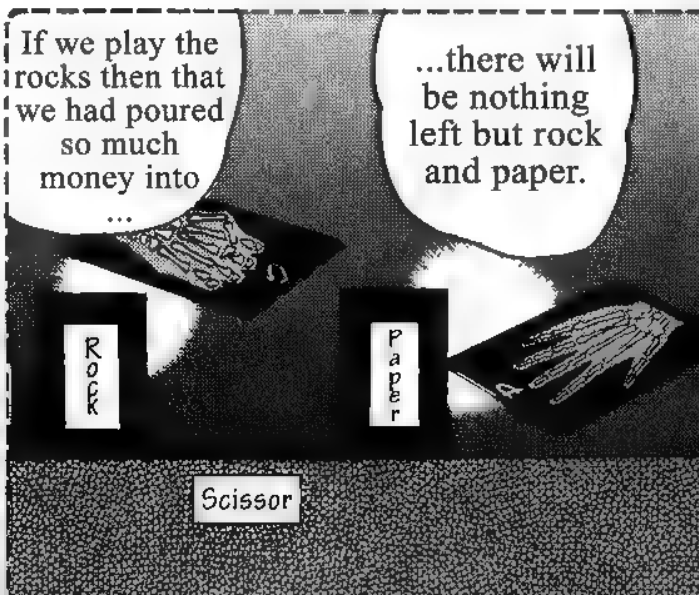
Ah
...

.....
S-
So...
Then what happens next...?

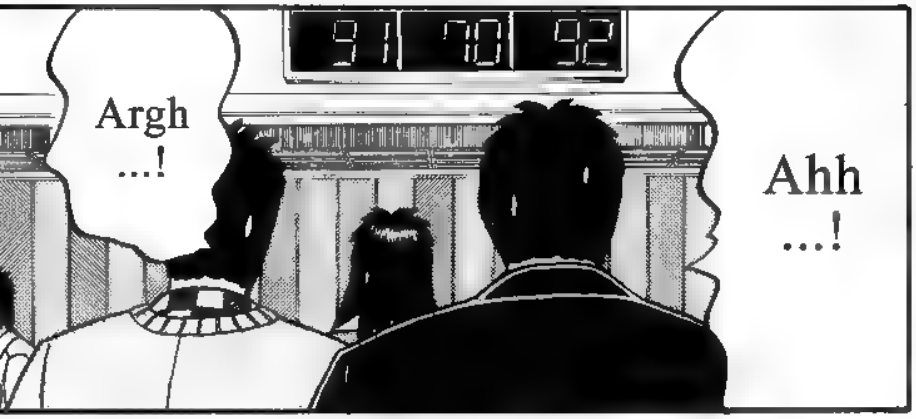
There's no doubt about it...
K-Kaiji -san...
That must be what's happening ...

...then in the end...
If this keeps up...

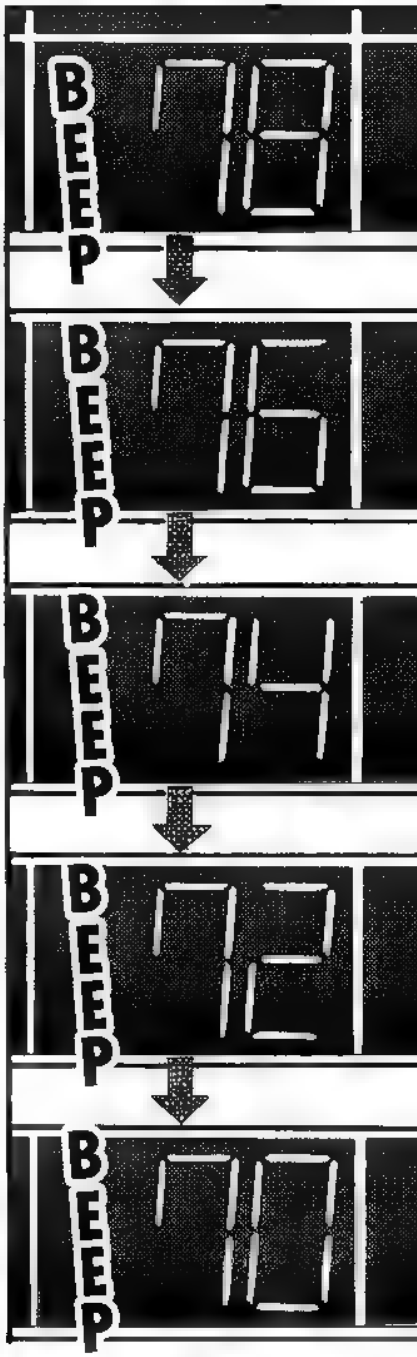
They'll turn into worthless scraps of paper ...
...they'll only guarantee losses.


If we play the rocks then that we had poured so much money into ...
...there will be nothing left but rock and paper.
Rock
Paper
Scissor

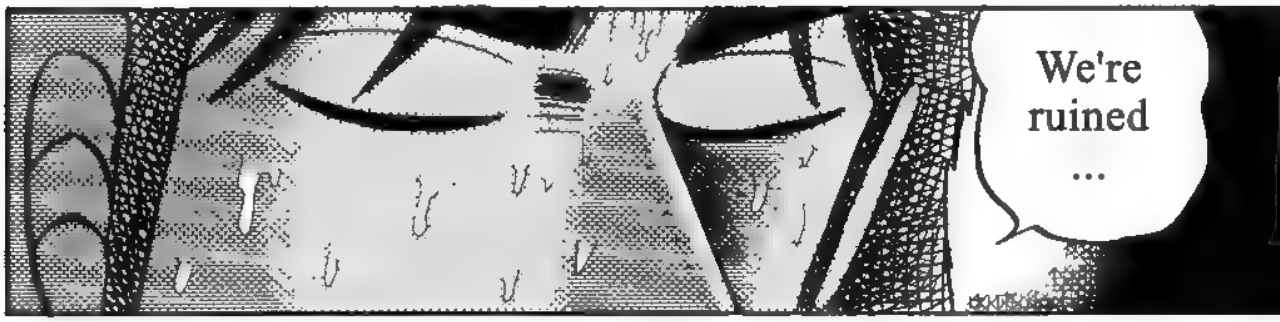
BEEP
91 80 92

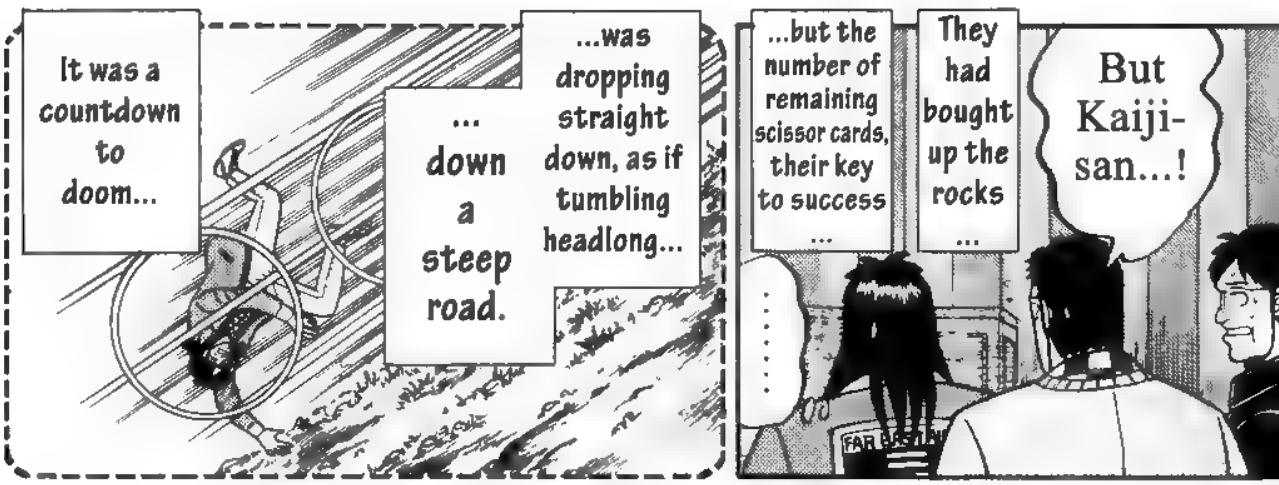

Argh ...!
Ahh ...!
91 70 92

Kaiji-san...!
Ahh ...
Kaiji-san ...all the scissors are going to disappear ...!


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

No ...
.....
.....
BEEP
Can't we do something ...!?


We're ruined ...


It was a countdown to doom...
... down a steep road.
...was dropping straight down, as if tumbling headlong...
...but the number of remaining scissor cards, their key to success ...
They had bought up the rocks ...
But Kaiji-san...!
.....

They can't stop those numbers from falling.
All they can do is gape and stare ...
But there's no longer anything which they can do.
BEEP
They try to stop ...
They want to stop ...
...and a road to death.
BEEP

...as it drains the very life out of them...
The blood continues to pool...
As if bleeding out from a wound ...
...but there is nothing they can do to stop the flow!
...into a bottomless pit...
...deeper and deeper...
The feeling ...
...of falling ...
For the first time ...
...Kaiji knew what it meant to feel true terror.
Kaiji-san...!

End of Chapter 22

Chapter 23: Bitter Defeat

Argh
...
Ahhh
...!
Aughh
...!

48
BEEP
47
BEEP
46
BEEP
45
BEEP
42

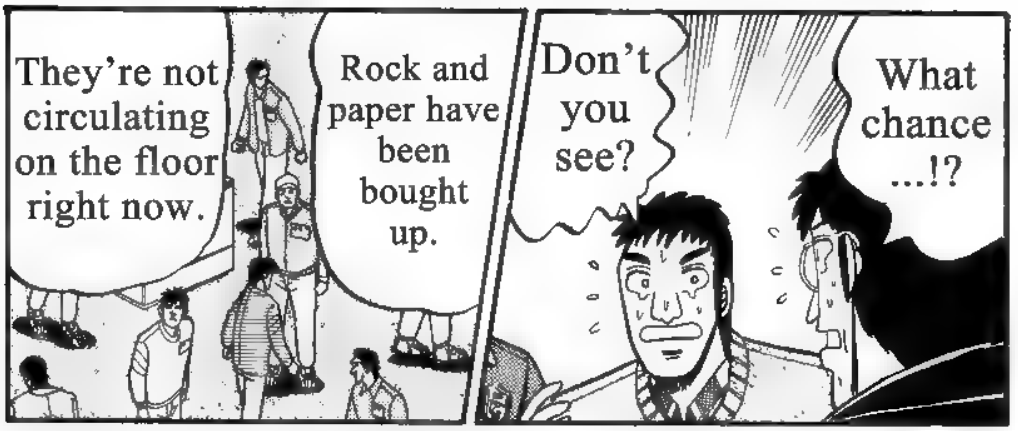
Ngh
...

.....

Ohhh
...
It's
all
over...
Ah
...

This is
our only
chance...
Huh
...?

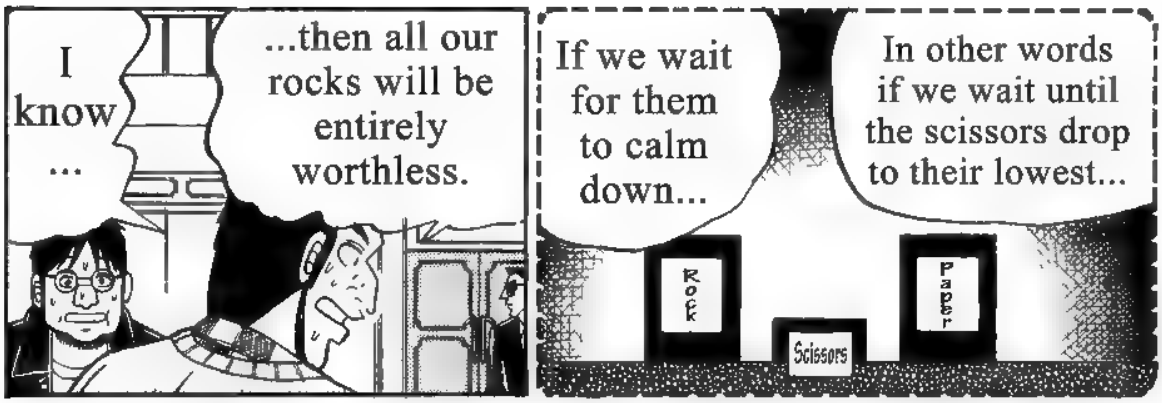
Let's
go...


They're not circulating on the floor right now.
Rock and paper have been bought up.
Don't you see?
What chance ...!?

Chance...?

Right now we can use rock to pick up the win...!
Do you see ?
They beat scissors!
...and all the matches right now are draws.
That's why only scissors is disappearing ...
BEEP
G C P
90 40 9

If we don't jump in before the crash is over...
While everyone is playing scissors, now is our chance.
If we wait until the cards right themselves out...
Ah ...!
If that isn't our chance then what is...!?

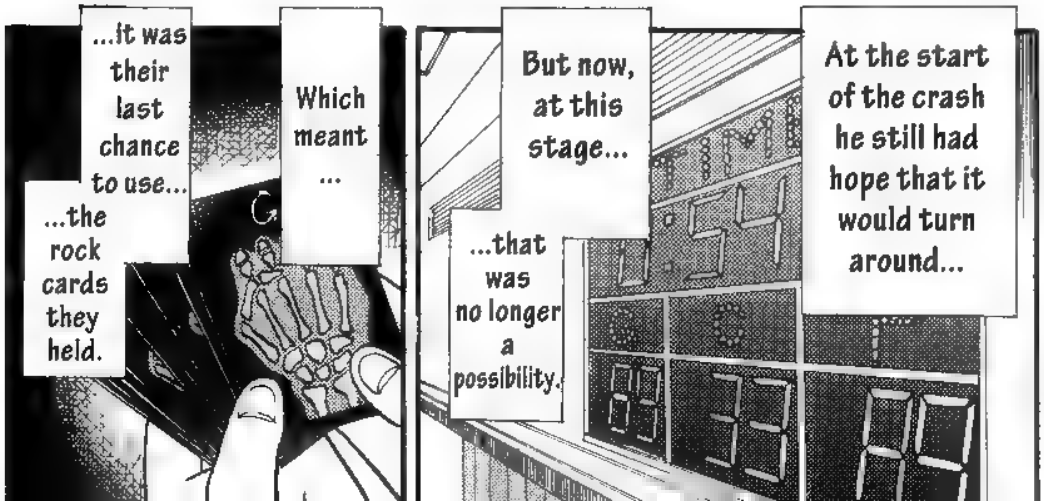

I know ...
...then all our rocks will be entirely worthless.
If we wait for them to calm down...
In other words if we wait until the scissors drop to their lowest...
Rock
Scissors
Paper

.....
Do you see...?
But if we're gonna act... We have to do it now ...
...the best situation right now ...
... it's not ...

BEEP
30
Furuhata -san...
We're letting the opportunity slip away!
This very act of just sitting on our hands is the worst thing we can do...

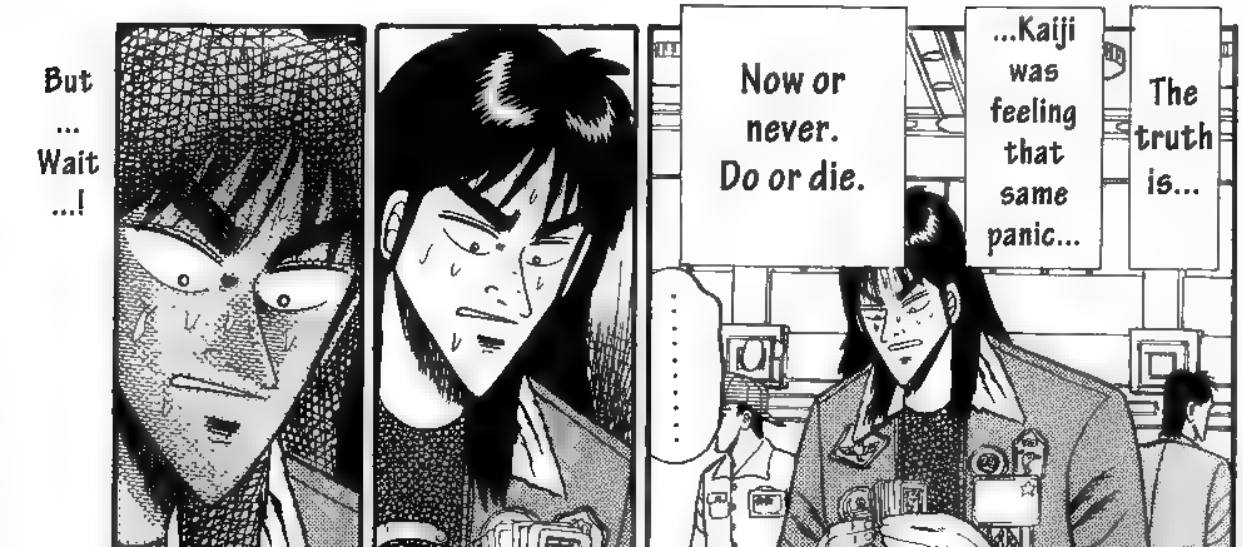
Wah ...
BEEEP
BEEEP
BEEEP
BEEEP
Ahh ...
Furuhata ...!
I'm going ...!
Ahhh ...
...Kaiji could stop it...
There was no way ...
.....
Ando ...!
Me too ...!

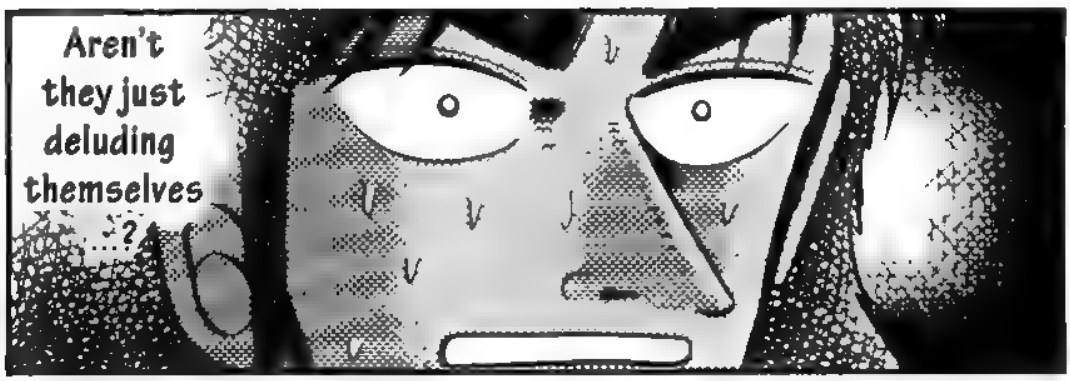
...he could only gape and stare.


At the start of the crash he still had hope that it would turn around...
But now, at this stage...
...that was no longer a possibility.
Which meant ...
...it was their last chance to use...
...the rock cards they held.

ざわ…ざわ

...those rocks would lose their value...
...forever.
If he let that chance slip away...
...while the scissors were in play, this could be their last chance.
If they wanted to use those cards to win...

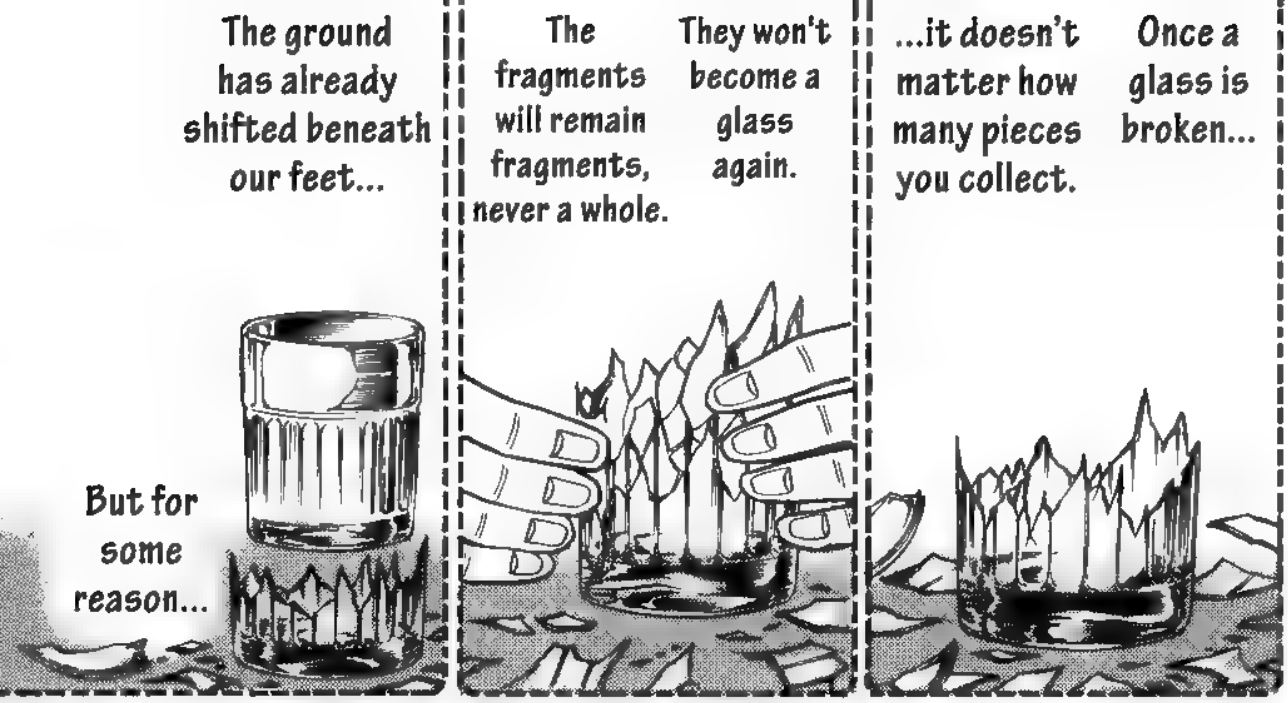

But ... Wait ...!
Now or never. Do or die.
...Kaiji was feeling that same panic...
The truth is...
.....

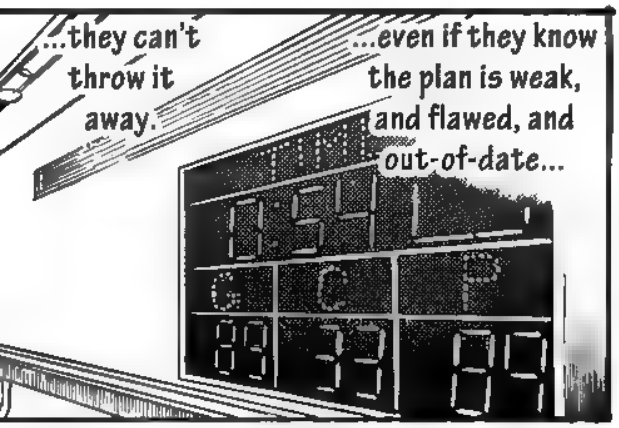

Aren't they just deluding themselves...?

Stop...!

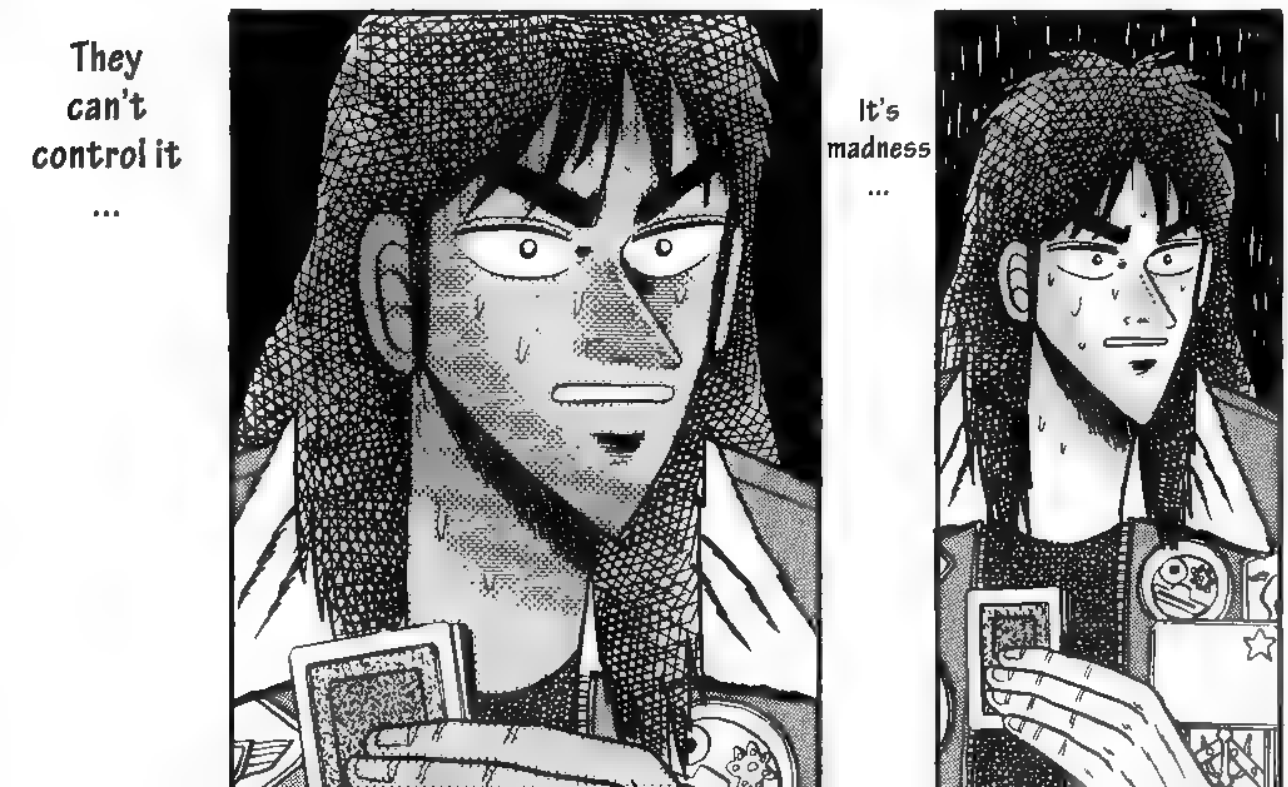
...aren't they just chasing after fragments of their broken dreams?
If they play those rocks now...

The rock buying plan is already ruined...

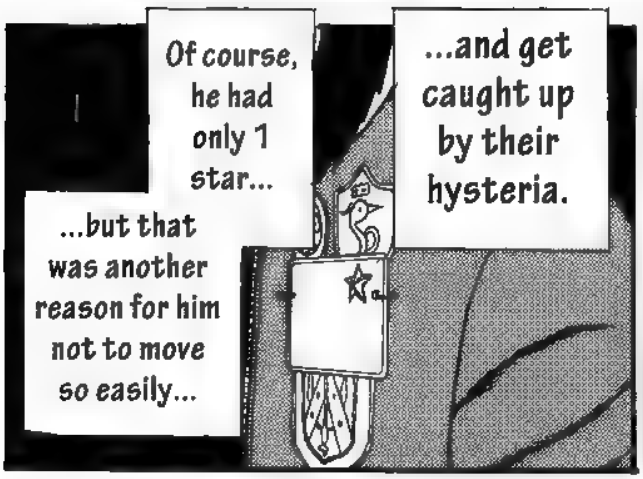

The ground has already shifted beneath our feet...
But for some reason...
The fragments will remain fragments, never a whole.
They won't become a glass again.
...it doesn't matter how many pieces you collect.
Once a glass is broken...


...they can't throw it away.
...even if they know the plan is weak, and flawed, and out-of-date...

Even if it no longer fits the circumstances ...
...people can't help following the plan they made to the bitter end.

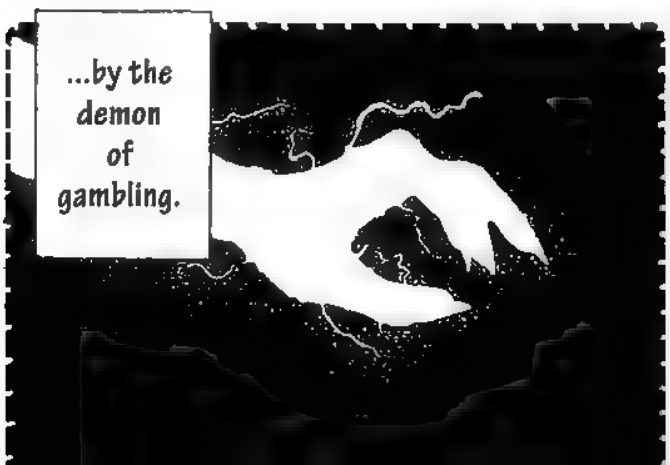

They can't control it ...
It's madness ...

Kaiji was wise.
Why ...?


Of course, he had only 1 star...
...but that was another reason for him not to move so easily...
...and get caught up by their hysteria.

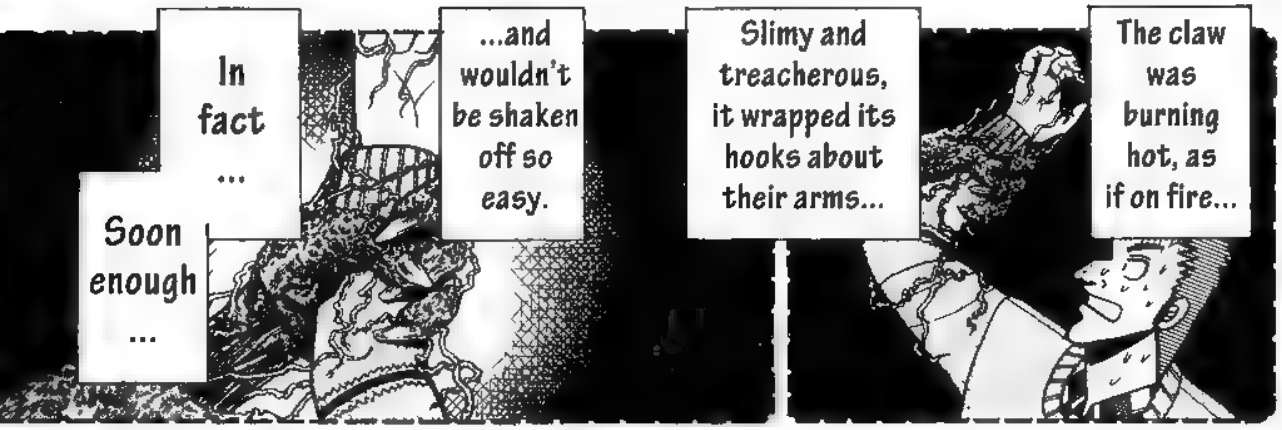
...after Furuhata and Ando...
He was wise at this moment not to follow ...

They had been seized ...
But... Furuhata and Ando hadn't.


...by the demon of gambling.

...and narrowly threw off the demon's hand, which had appeared to clutch at his heart...
So he held his ground ...
...and beckon him to doom.

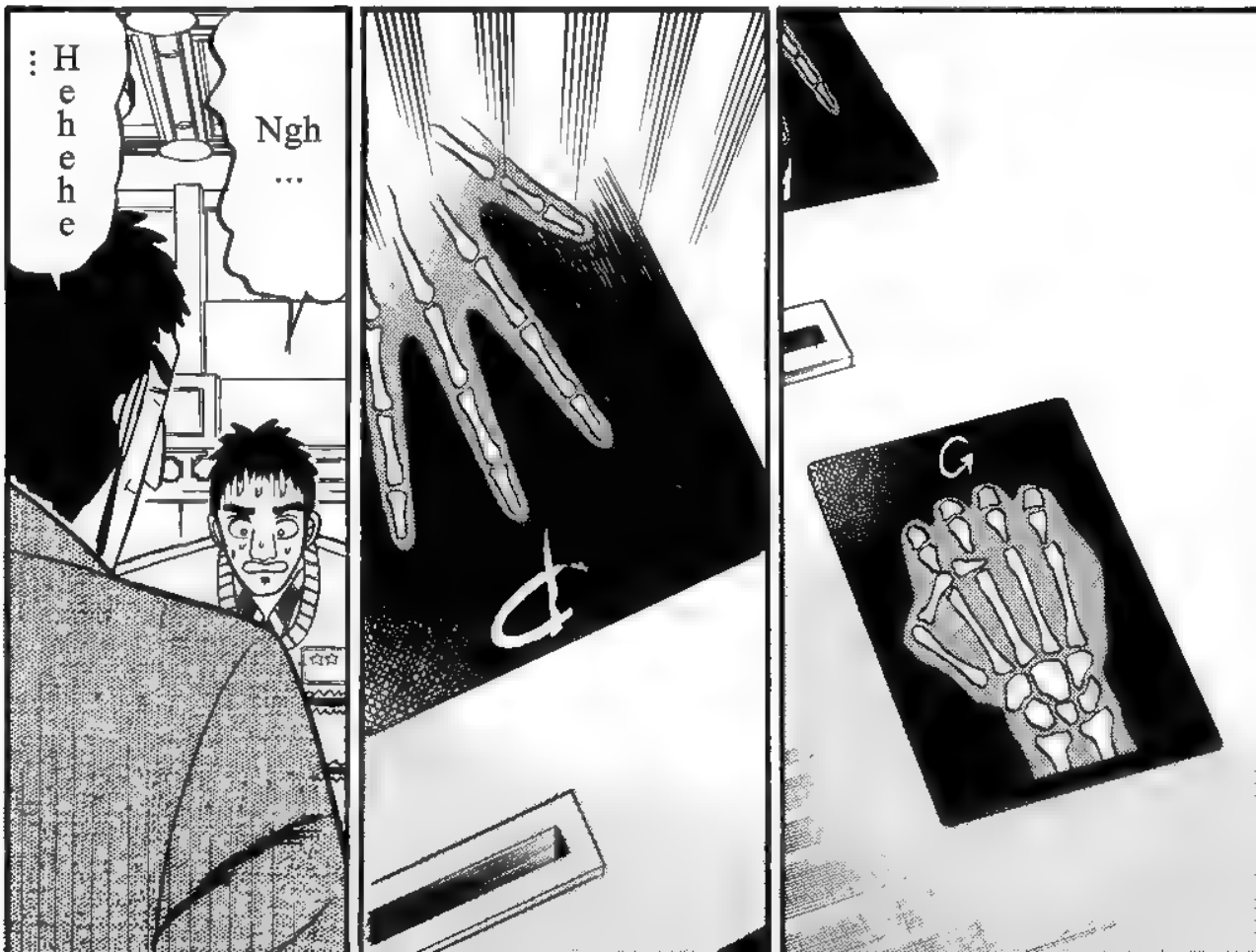
...
slimy
claws!
Seized
in its
ruthless...


Soon
enough
...
In
fact
...
...and
wouldn't
be shaken
off so
easy.
Slimy and
treacherous,
it wrapped its
hooks about
their arms...
The claw
was
burning
hot, as
if on fire...

...in
blind
delirium.
...the truth
is the demon
was jerking
them around like
puppets...
While they
might think
they were
acting of their
own accord...
Indeed
...
The claw
would
begin to
assimilate
them.

Spurring them onward towards the next match...
...in a state of agitated panic.
Something was compelling both Furuhata and Ando...
They were sprinting towards disaster.
...is the filthy, burning claw that was sent to the mind of each one of them...
...by the demon of gambling.
That "something" ...
They couldn't get over all the time and money they had spent...
Furuhata and Ando just couldn't get over it...
Check ...!
They couldn't let that happen ...!
...had all been for naught.
They just couldn't accept that their hard-earned plans ...
It wasn't letting go...!!

Give me 3 stars ...!
Just 1 win ...
Please ...!
Set ...!
Go ...!
Just 1 win with this rock ...!
For heaven's sake ...!


Ngh
...
: Hehehe

Alright ...!
Of all the bad luck, he played paper ...!

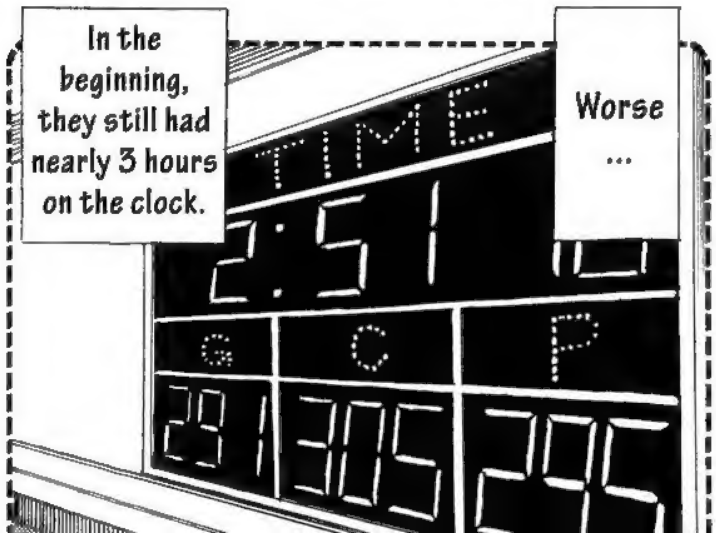
Sorry there, fatso.
: Hehehe
RIP

In the end ...

... Furuhata and Ando ... were defeated by their intended victims ...

SEOUL

Back down to 3 stars ... !



...
with less than an hour left
...
But now
...
TIME
0:52 LC
G O P
86 33 86
...
the danger had still been far off
...
If they had despaired then
...
They had despaired at a distance
...
The despair had seized them by the throats
...
...
there was no escaping the truth.
Isn't there any way other than striking out at shadows
...
I don't have any plans left
...
But just that
...
They still had plenty of cards... Enough rocks to make them sick
...
Man
...
Hehehe
...trying to take 6 stars...?
FAR AIR

I guess you're the ringleader behind all this cloak and dagger stuff ...
?
Hmph
I see.
You look kinda of smart.
Well then ...
... have you managed to figure out ...
... who we are ?
End of Chapter 23

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